

Americans oppose quick military action

NEW YORK (R) — Eight out of 10 Americans oppose swift U.S. military action against Iraq but more than half support attacking Iraqi positions if fighting breaks out, even if U.S. or foreign nationals are held at those sites, according to a poll. The Newsweek magazine poll, based on telephone interviews with 767 Americans conducted Aug. 23-24, found that 80 per cent of those questioned oppose quick military action following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and want President George Bush to wait and see if diplomatic and economic sanctions are effective. The poll, with a margin of error of four percentage points, found that more than half of the respondents believe Japan, the Soviet Union, and Arab and European nations are not doing enough to help solve the crisis. Although 75 per cent of those questioned support Bush's handling of the crisis, 68 per cent said he should pay more attention to a diplomatic solution. Eighty per cent think combat is likely, compared to 74 per cent in a Newsweek poll taken Aug. 9-10.

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Bangladesh thanks Jordan for help

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received a cable of thanks from Bangladesh President Mohammad Hussain Ershad, who voiced his appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for the good care and nice treatment offered to Bangladeshis arriving in Jordan from Iraq en route to their country. Ershad paid tribute to the positive role played by His Majesty King Hussein to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, and stressed his country's support for the King's efforts.

Saudi in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Rabat Sunday for talks with King Hassan on the Gulf crisis. He told reporters he was carrying a message from King Fahd as part of consultations between the two monarchs following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported.

Sheikh Saad said to meet U.S. envoy

NICOSIA (R) — The prime minister of Kuwait's toppled government discussed the Gulf crisis Sunday with the U.S. ambassador-designate to Kuwait, Edward Gnehm, the Kuwait news agency (KUNA) reported. KUNA said Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is at the Saudi Arabian summer resort town of Taif, discussed with Gnehm the latest developments in the Gulf, a reference to a growing deployment of U.S.-led forces in the region. But a U.S. State Department spokesman said he was unaware of any such encounter. The spokesman confirmed that Gnehm was due to replace Nathaniel Howell before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Iraq seeks Red Cross help

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's Red Crescent Society Sunday appealed to the Red Cross to help prevent shortages of food and medicine resulting from a U.N. trade embargo. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that in a message to the Red Cross, "The Iraqi society made it clear that the death of Iraqi or a foreign child due to the shortage of food and medicine constituted a major crime against humanity." The United Nations slapped an international embargo on trade with Baghdad after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. But that embargo does not include medicines or other "humanitarian aid." The Red Crescent appealed to the League of the Red Cross Societies "to play an effective role in preventing this crime from happening," INA said.

Egyptian militants clash with police

CAIRO (AP) — Eight people were wounded in a weekend clash between police and fundamentalists in the northern governorate of Damietta, police source said Sunday. Twenty seven fundamentalists were arrested. The police source said the incident took place Saturday night in a small village called Shat Griba in Damietta governorate, around 175 kilometres north of Cairo. He said police surrounded a mosque in the village where the fundamentalists usually met. The extremists refused to leave the mosque and a clash followed. Four fundamentalists and four policemen were injured in the clash. Police arrested 27 of the people in the mosque, and were looking for others who had fled the scene.

Assad-Mubarak talks postponed

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has apparently postponed a visit to Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak that were scheduled for Sunday. Egyptian officials notified reporters Saturday that Assad would arrive in Alexandria at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT), but Sunday gave no reason why the Syrian leader did not turn up. Alexandria airport officials said they had been told to cancel all arrangements for receiving the Syrian leader until further notice.

King on Maghreb tour in bid to resolve Gulf crisis

Visit begins in Libya, will include 4 other Arab states and Europe ● Bashir holds talks with Regent en route to Iraq

Combined Agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in Tripoli, Libya on a tour of five Arab countries and possibly several European states in a continued bid to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework against a background of a massive American-led military build-up in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and Washington's rejection of negotiations as long as Iraqi troops remained in Kuwait.

The King, on his first visit to Libya in over six years, was received upon his arrival at Tripoli by Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan news agency, JANA, reported. The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

King Hussein's tour will cover Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and

Mauritania. Diplomats said he would also visit London, Bonn and Madrid.

Jordan, Sudan, Algeria, Yemen and Mauritania were among Arab League members which abstained in a vote denouncing Iraq for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation voted with Iraq against the resolution. Sudanese leader Omar Al Bashir and two senior Libyan envoys flew to Iraq Sunday after talks in Amman with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"We are trying to crystallise an Arab initiative... by pursuing our contacts with Arab leaders," Bashir told reporters.

Bashir discussed the Gulf crisis at Amman's military airport with Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran before boarding a Libyan airliner to Baghdad.

His Libyan companions were Ahmad Al Kayyal and Mustafa

Al Kharoubi, a close aide of Qadhafi.

The talks were attended by Sharif Zeid, Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeb and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Al Bashir said that the Arab Nation "is currently passing through a very critical stage and a very dangerous turning point, warranting every possible effort to contain the crisis by finding an inter-Arab solution to avoid a destructive war in the region, given the volume of weaponry and build up of forces in the region."

Bashir stressed the need for finding a comprehensive pan-Arab solution to the problem.

Asked whether there was any Arab initiative for solving the Gulf crisis, Bashir said: "So far, I can't say that an Arab initiative has crystallised. However, con-

tacts and consultations are under way, and the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein could lead to positive results."

Bashir voiced hope that such an Arab initiative will be crystallised following the King's present tour.

Before leaving, the King met Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer who told him Ankara was keen to solve the Gulf crisis through dialogue.

"Only dialogue with all the parties is capable of achieving a solution to the crisis and sparing the region and the world the dangerous repercussions that could result from any explosion," Petra quoted Bozer as saying.

The Crown Prince also met with Bozer.

The foreign ministry of Algeria and the head of the Palestine

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PLO unsure of role in Gulf crisis

Palestinian 'initiative' is no more than ideas at this stage and lack of contact with U.S. hampers 'mediation' efforts

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has not discussed with the Iraqi leaders a reported peace initiative involving an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but the organisation is keen to link any solution of the Gulf crisis to an overall settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to senior PLO officials.

They said that senior PLO officials who visited Baghdad over the past several days had not brought up a specific Palestinian peace initiative although ideas concerning the organisation's role and means to avert direct military intervention were discussed with the Iraqi leadership.

Reports from Tunis said Saturday that the PLO was launching a three-stage peace initiative involving the freezing of all military activities, including the dispatching and posi-

tioning of troops in the Gulf, a simultaneous Iraqi and American withdrawal from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia respectively, and a settlement for the Kuwait crisis by a special Arab League committee.

Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times Sunday that the reported peace initiative was basically no more than ideas which originally aimed at finding an Arab solution for the crisis and gradually linking the settlement to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian sources explained the idea were derived partly from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's two initiatives which expressed readiness to withdraw from Kuwait and linking this withdrawal to ending the Israeli occupation and the American military presence in the Gulf.

"But as soon as one gets to Iraq you realise that Baghdad's major concern is the American

challenge," said a senior PLO official contacted in Tunis by the Jordan Times by telephone.

Palestinian sources said that even though Iraqi officials indicate that the annexation of Kuwait is irreversible, President Saddam Hussein is ready to show flexibility on any issue if it was relevant to prevent an American control of the region.

"But it is not a decision that the PLO or any party can decide. Iraq is the party directly threatened," a PLO official said. "It is not for the PLO to pressure Baghdad. After all Iraq has to maintain the freedom and margin to manoeuvre," he argued.

The insistence by some PLO officials in Tunis that the reported ideas reflect what could be called a peace initiative, however, clearly reveals a basic internal debate about the role of the PLO at this stage.

The main question seems to be whether the PLO should or can play the role of a mediator

or not. The arguments for a mediating role stem, according to information available, from a combination of maintaining bridges with Washington, pressures applied by a number of Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf, and fear that the PLO would lose its political role in inter-Arab politics.

But on the other hand, some Palestinian officials argue that the PLO simply cannot play the role of a mediator because it is unacceptable to the U.S. "Our bridges with Washington are already burned. We should not fool ourselves," one senior PLO official said.

According to this view, Palestinian and the Arab national interests would be undermined if Iraq were to suffer a defeat, and the PLO therefore should take an active part in creating a popular steadfastness front to counter the American presence.

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'Egypt had tipped off Kuwaiti regime of assault'

By F.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egyptian authorities had tipped off the ruling Al Sabah family at least two hours before the first Iraqi soldiers crossed the border early Aug. 2, and this enabled almost all emiri family members and cabinet ministers to escape by road and air to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, according to sources who were at the Kuwaiti Dhaman Palace at the time.

"The palace was informed at 00:10 midnight that an Iraqi invasion was coming and that the invasion force was too massive for anyone to resist or counter at short notice," a source told the Jordan Times. "The information was immediately counter-checked with Kuwaiti intelligence which seemed to be totally surprised," said the source who worked for the emiri family but insisted on anonymity.

"The chief of Kuwaiti intelligence could not confirm or dismiss the tip-off but it appeared to have been decided that no chances were to be taken," according to the source.

"There was pandemonium in the palace, with everyone running around, but several senior members of the royal family appeared to have been ready for such an eventuality, and they were the ones to restore some calm and order," the source said. "Many rushed out in their bedclothes, while others stuffed bags and suitcases with whatever they could find."

"A convoy of limousines was lined up, and the first few cars took off with women of the Al Sabah family, but not all of them," the source said. "Some of them were left behind."

"The emir and his children, at least four cabinet members and families were next, and they were supposed to be joined at the Kuwait-Saudi border by other members, including the crown prince and prime minister," according to the source, who insisted that the ruler had left by road to the Saudi border (initial reports from Bahrain said that the emir had arrived in Bahrain and then flew to Saudi Arabia by helicopter).

"Several helicopters also took off simultaneously with the convoy moving towards the Saudi border, apparently with the aim of throwing a red herring to the Iraqis," the source said. The source did not know who were aboard the helicopters.

By 1.15 a.m. the move of the palace in an around Kuwait City were "empty," and instructions had gone out to all emiri family members and cabinet ministers to rush towards the Kuwait-Saudi border. "It was due to an oversight" that Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a brother of the emir, was "left behind at the palace," the source said.

"Sheikh Fahed was not supposed to be at the palace that night since he had some engagements somewhere else," according to the source.

A Tunisian who was also working in Kuwait confirmed this account and said when Iraqi soldiers circled the palace in less than two hours after the actual invasion which began at 2.30 a.m. Sheikh Fahed woke up and sought to lead a resistance from within supported by about 300 palace guards.

According to the Tunisian

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Soviets 'will not use' force in Iraq embargo

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union will not use force in the Gulf, despite a U.N. resolution allowing military enforcement of a trade embargo against Iraq, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Sunday.

But Shevardnadze indicated the Soviet Union would not object if the United States and other nations with military vessels in the Gulf used force "within the framework of that resolution."

Speaking at a news conference with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that was dominated by the Gulf crisis, Shevardnadze also denied that 193 Soviet military advisers still in Iraq were taking part "in preparing details of military operations." He said they would be brought home soon after their contracts expire and Soviet women and children have been evacuated.

In a joint statement, Shevardnadze and Dumas urged Iraq to "show realism and common sense and to heed the will of the international community expressed in the resolutions of the (U.N.) Security Council on the Gulf crisis."

They also said they welcomed United Nations Resolution 665, approved Saturday by the Security Council, which called on all countries deploying maritime forces in the Gulf region to use "such measures commensurate with the specific circumstances as may be necessary," to end commerce with Iraq, which took over Kuwait Aug. 2.

Resolution 665 was adopted by 13 votes to none with two abstentions after a week of diplomatic contacts to overcome Soviet reluctance.

Before the vote, President Mikhail Gorbachev had sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein warning of additional U.N. action if Baghdad failed to withdraw its troops and allow foreign nationals to leave the region freely.

The Soviet Union has two warships just south of the Strait of Hormuz but says they are so positioned in case they are needed to assist 9,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq.

Moscow has evacuated all its nationals from Kuwait and plans to bring back to Moscow Sunday the first group of women and children currently in Iraq.

Shevardnadze also said that Moscow had no plans to take part in any U.N.-sponsored multinational force in the region, saying no decision had yet been taken to form one.

"If the Security Council takes a decision and the Soviet Union votes for it, we will carry out our responsibility," he said. "But so far such a decision has not been taken on forming and using such a force."

The Franco-Soviet statement said both countries would continue their close consultations on the crisis and called for intensified efforts to solve other problems in the region, particularly the Palestinian question.

Thatcher rules out talks with Saddam

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday ruled out negotiations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf crisis, saying there could be no talks with "a tyrant". She dismissed Saddam's latest suggestion that he was ready for talks on international tension sparked by Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait. "There is no negotiation with a person, who by force has taken someone else's country," she said after Sunday morning prayers near her country retreat at Chequers. Thatcher spoke a day after the U.N. Security Council agreed that Iraqi trade should be blocked by force and Iraq imposed a siege to move foreign diplomats out of Kuwait. Hours later, the Iraqi leader warned the United States that any Western attack would result in "columns of dead bodies without end." Thatcher appeared unmoved by Saddam's threat, declaring: "We are dealing with a dictator who is an absolute tyrant... this man is a despot and a tyrant and must be stopped." Thatcher said Saddam was most unlikely to heed current U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait.

U.N. chief, Aziz to meet here Thursday

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet Thursday in Amman with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Al Aziz to discuss the Gulf crisis, a U.N. spokeswoman said Sunday.

The secretary general will meet with Aziz "in order to engage in a full exchange of views on the crisis," said Nadia Younes, the secretary general's spokeswoman.

Perez de Cuellar Saturday had invited Aziz to come to New York or Geneva to discuss the crisis. Later Saturday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told reporters travelling with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim that he would welcome a visit by the U.N. chief in Iraq.

Younes said she could not say whether any other leaders would attend the meeting in Amman.

"We're not ruling anything out," she said.

Perez de Cuellar, who returned to New York Sunday from trip to South America, was in regular contact with Iraqi and other officials at the United Nations, she said.

The development offered the biggest chance yet to solve the Gulf crisis by negotiations, although the United States repeatedly has said no talks are possible until Iraq withdraws its troops from Kuwait.

Perez de Cuellar made his offer Saturday hours after the U.N. Security Council authorised the use of military force to enforce the trade embargo against Iraq.

Saddam was asked by reporters travelling with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim Saturday whether he would agree to meet with the United Nations secretary-general in Iraq.

"Of course," he replied, "the

U.N. secretary-general is always welcome."

In Kennebunkport, Maine, White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said Saturday he had not heard about the proposal but that the United States welcome a "discussion by all U.N. members in the context of the complete and immediate and unconditional withdrawal" of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Saddam has refused to withdraw from Kuwait.

Waldheim urged the West Sunday to open a dialogue with Iraq on the Gulf crisis, which he called the most serious facing the world since the 1948 Berlin blockade.

Waldheim, speaking on his return from the first contact with Saddam by a Western leader since Aug. 2, said the Iraqi president had repeatedly told him he was ready for talks on the Gulf crisis.

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Gulf solution depends on pace of efforts, contribution of all — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday that chances of reaching a political solution to the region's conflict depends on the pace of peace moves and on giving all parties concerned the opportunity to contribute to a dialogue conducive to deescalating the Gulf tension.

In an interview with ABC television network, Prince Hassan said that His Majesty King Hussein was on continuous contact with the Arab Maghreb countries as well as Sudan and Yemen. The Regent said it was premature to talk in detail about Jordan's efforts since silent diplomacy rather than loud diplomacy was needed.

Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should be stressed but this is an extremely complicated issue, which entails intensive Arab efforts, Prince Hassan said.

In a reference to the call by the United Nations secretary general to find a compromise, Prince Hassan said such a solution should include guarantees of non-aggression by troops deployed in the region. The

problem should be restricted to its components — Iraq and Kuwait — instead of concentrating on the international aspects of the problem.

Prince Hassan said the visit of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to Baghdad Saturday had demonstrated that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wants to negotiate a solution to the problem, and he wants a negotiator. "But how will that materialise? How could we put things right? This, in fact, poses a real challenge for all of us, as President Bush has put it," the Regent said in excerpts of his remarks carried in Arabic by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for giving diplomacy a chance and for finding a comprehensive solution to the problem. He noted that it is the duty of the United Nations, the negotiators and the parties directly involved in the conflict to do so. He said any negotiations on a peaceful solution to the crisis should not disregard any statement made by Saddam Hussein. "If the case is that of special terminology and special language between Baghdad and Washington, I

hope that every possible effort should be made to convey the messages clearly and to address them clearly as part of a peace process, and not under pressure," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying by Petra.

He noted that Jordan had done its best to ensure the departure of all foreign communities in Kuwait and Iraq and he voiced hope that the crisis over Iraq's request for moving all embassies from Kuwait would be solved.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had fought along with the Saudis to restore monarchy to Yemen but there was no international outcry. There were similar invasions by Arab countries of other Arab countries, but there was no world reaction, the Crown Prince said. "I believe the present reaction to the current crisis was a result of Iraq's oil reserves of one-fourth of the world's oil reserves," Prince Hassan said.

Any effort to ensure a war-free area and to forge closer cooperation in security and humanitarian issues should not exclude the Middle East, he said.

Iran opens border for evacuees

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday that foreigners leaving Iraq or Kuwait can do so through Iran, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio quoted him as saying that for humanitarian reasons "Iran agrees to foreign evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait transiting in its territory."

Velayati agreed to let foreigners leave through Iran in response to a request by visiting Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, asking that thousands of his countrymen trapped in Iraq and Kuwait be allowed to cross into Iran.

Velayati did not specify if Tehran's offer included only Asians, or whether thousands of Westerners held in Iraq will be cross the border.

Non-Western foreigners allowed to leave Iraq and Kuwait have been doing so through Iraq's border with Jordan and Turkey. Tensions between Iran and Iraq have lessened since Baghdad settled a border dispute with Tehran last month, pulled out troops from occupied Iranian territory and initiated an exchange of prisoners of war.

However, the border is still heavily fortified on both sides, and foreigners will likely be allowed to cross only at certain points.

About 50,000 Iranians living in Kuwait have returned home through the Iran-Iraq border, and hundreds more continue to stream in every day, the radio has said.

Another 40,000 Iranians remained in Kuwait and could leave if they wanted, the official added. He said Iraqi forces set Aug. 29 as the deadline for departure of Iranians from Kuwait.

Cairo says 10 Arab states agree to meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said Sunday that 10 Arab foreign ministers have agreed to attend an emergency meeting on the Gulf crisis in Cairo Thursday and it expected more would take part.

"We hope to obtain the approval of the necessary quorum to have this meeting take place in Cairo next Thursday, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told a news conference.

Under the Arab League Charter agreement by a simple majority of its 21 members is needed for a meeting to be convened. "Until now we have 10 countries but we very soon expect more," Abdul Meguid said.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Aug. 26 but was postponed at the request of Egypt.

Abdul Meguid said a resolution approved at an emergency Arab League summit Aug. 10 specified that the league's secretary general report to foreign ministers on each country's position regarding Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. This was why Cairo had requested the emergency meeting, he said.

Twelve Arab states voted for the summit resolution approving the formation of an Arab force at the request of Saudi Arabia and

calling for an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Only three members, Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Libya, voted against while others abstained or approved it with reservations.

The foreign ministers meeting would investigate each country's position on implementation of the resolution, Abdul Meguid said.

"Our position is to have a political solution that has to be within the framework of the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and a return of the legitimacy of Kuwait," he said.

"We are sure that sooner or later Kuwait will regain its independence. We certainly hope that this independence will be regained by peaceful means," he added.

Abdul Meguid also said that although the latest U.N. Security Council resolution may take time to be effective, it was a clear sign of international unanimity against Iraq.

Abdul Meguid spoke to foreign reporters a few hours before a scheduled trip to the Soviet Union which he said was to continue "intensive consultations" on regional developments.

TODAY IS THE CHARITY PROCESSION FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

The first charity procession of children carrying milk and food supplies to Iraqi children will start at 5:00 p.m. today Monday Aug. 27, 1990 from the Seventh Circle and along the Queen Alia International Airport. All members of the public are invited to gather at the specified gathering site to pay farewell to the children. The invitation is specially addressed to those who financed the procession.

U.S. forces pouring into Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — More U.S. forces are pouring into Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational build up and Western warships have been authorised to use necessary force to tighten the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq.

The U.S. Central Command prepared to move its headquarters from MacDill Air Force Base in Florida to Saudi Arabia.

Washington said Saturday it was sending an unspecified number of F-111 strike bombers from Britain to the kingdom to bolster its "Desert Shield" operation begun after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

U.S. defence officials said about 60,000 troops and airmen, mostly marines, were on their way to Saudi Arabia to join 40,000 already there. The total could reach 150,000 by the end of October — the biggest U.S. military build-up since the Vietnam war.

Two Italian frigates and a supply ship sailed through the Suez Canal Saturday on their way to the Gulf.

Bangladesh's parliament authorised the departure of 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia to join the multinational force there.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said Copenhagen should send warships to the Gulf to oppose Baghdad.

Iraq denied an Egyptian report that it had sent jet fighters to Yemen and Sudan.

The Western and Arab ground forces in Saudi Arabia are facing 170,000 Iraqis in Kuwait and hundreds of thousands more in Iraq itself.

The West has about 650 combat planes in the area compared to Iraq's 500. It also has more than 60 warships ready to intercept shipping after the U.N. Security Council Saturday authorised the use of force to impose trade sanctions against Iraq.

Latest estimates of the balance of forces in the Gulf:

Iraq: About 170,000 troops entrenched in defensive positions in Kuwait with 500 tanks. Total armed forces a million strong with 5,500 tanks, nearly all free to confront the multinational force after Baghdad agreed to make peace with Iran. An Iraqi newspaper said five million Iraqis have joined a "people's army."

Saudi Arabia: Army of 38,000, paramilitary National Guard of 55,000, a 7,200-strong navy and an air force of 16,500. Weapons include 550 main battle tanks, 180 combat aircraft and eight frigates. Some 36 Kuwaiti planes are said to have escaped during the invasion.

West Germany has sent three minehunters, two minesweepers and a tender to the East Mediterranean to replace U.S. ships diverted to the Gulf. It will provide U.S. forces with 10 Fuchs vehicles designed to test the air for chemical warfare agents.

Australia has two warships on route to the Gulf. The Soviet Union has two warships already there.

Bangladesh is sending 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan says it will also send a force. Turkey has reinforced the second army group defending its southern border by 10,000 men, bringing total strength in the area to 70,000. U.S. strike bombers and F-16s are based in Turkey within striking distance of Iraq.

Ankara says it would consider sending troops to the Gulf if Saudi Arabia asked it.

Iraq says all recorded PoWs returned to Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Sunday completed handing over all registered Iranian Prisoners of War (PoWs), the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Iraq and Iran were estimated to hold a total of 100,000 PoWs before the prisoner exchange began Aug. 17.

About 70,000 of these had been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the two countries, about 50,000 in Iran and about 20,000 in Iraq.

Iraqi authorities Sunday invited the Red Cross to begin registering the remaining PoWs so that they, too, might be repatriated.

The Red Cross has coordinated the prisoner exchange. Iranian air force planes flying daily between Tehran and Baghdad have speeded up the swap.

The two countries earlier this month settled a decade-long border dispute. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pulled troops out of

Iranian territory and initiated the exchange of prisoners.

The commander of the U.N. soldiers monitoring the Iran-Iraq ceasefire was reported as saying that Iraqi forces still occupy pockets of Iranian territory.

Tehran Radio quoted General Slavko Jovic as telling Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran that the was to fly to Baghdad later in the day to ask the Iraqis to complete the pullout promised by Saddam.

Iraq said last week Iraqi forces had left the 2,600 square kilometre of land they had kept after a U.N.-mediated ceasefire halted eight years of war in August 1988.

"Except for a few small areas, the withdrawal has been effected completely on the basis of the 1975 (Algiers) treaty," the radio quoted Jovic as saying.

The radio report did not give the location or size of the areas still controlled by Iraq.

Iraq steps up pressure on Kuwait embassies

NICOSIA (AP) — Defiant diplomats in Kuwait held out for a second day Sunday in several embassies ringed by Iraqi troops who have cut off their power, water and telephones to force them out.

But there were no reports that the Iraqis, who had ordered all embassies closed by Friday, were using force against the diplomats.

According to reports reaching foreign ministers in Europe and elsewhere, the Iraqis cut off the missions' electricity and other utilities Saturday after the diplomats refused to close their missions.

Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2. Baghdad now considers Kuwait part of Iraq and insists the embassies are no longer needed.

The reports Sunday said the U.S., British, French, Hungarian and West German embassies were still surrounded by Iraqi troops who are refusing to allow anyone in or out.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said contact was still possible with the four diplomats holed up in their embassy "through normal diplomatic means" and that morale was high.

He did not elaborate. But some other governments said diplomats at their embassies were free to come and go.

A number of diplomatic dependents, including 55 Americans, who had been held up in Baghdad after leaving Kuwait Saturday, were allowed Sunday to continue their overland journey to leave Iraq.

Italy said Sunday it wants the European Community (EC) to seek a U.N. Security Council meeting on Iraqi "violation of diplomatic immunity" of EC missions in Kuwait.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Italy, current EC president, had called for a meeting in New York of EC envoys to the U.N. "to begin the procedures for a rapid calling of the Security Council of the United Nations."

The statement denounced "repeated and intolerable violations" of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, particularly an attempt by Iraqi soldiers to break down a wall at the French embassy to cut off its water supply.

Defying Iraq's order, South Korea will keep its embassy in Kuwait open with the "minimum necessary" personnel, officials said.

Foreign Ministry officials said the embassy would remain open in line with resolutions by the United Nations Security Council, which nullified Iraq's "annexation" of Kuwait.

"We are watching the situation closely," a ministry official said. So far, there have been no reports of any Iraqi action against the Korean embassy, where Ambassador Soh Byung-Yong is staying, he said.

Other officials said Soh has been ordered to act in keeping with Western ambassadors.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, quoted a ministry official as saying the government does not know whether Iraq has taken steps to shut the embassy "owing to communications difficulties."

More than 40 Koreans were known to have left Kuwait since Wednesday and South Korea is consulting with Jordan and Turkey for their safe evacuation.

Iraqi troops rounded up eight more Britons from their homes in Kuwait City, the Foreign Office said Sunday.

attache gave the Americans the details of Iraqi missile systems "do not correspond to reality, to put it mildly," Izvestia said.

It added that Western reports that Soviet warships would be subject to American command in the Gulf area were "from the field of fantasy."

For decades Iraq was Moscow's closest ally in the Middle East and received billions of dollars worth of tanks, missiles, arms, explosives and ammunition from the Kremlin.

Moscow cut off the arms deliveries shortly after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and has joined international condemnation of the action. But it has kept diplomatic contacts with Iraq.

"In accordance with treaty commitments to Iraq and established practice in this sphere of international relations, there was no talk of the quantity and tactical and technical characteristics (of the weapons)," the paper said.

"In the course of the talks, it was also emphasised that the USSR had never supplied any kind of chemical weapons to Iraq," Izvestia said.

It said the information given by Yakovlev, as well as the fact that he did not describe any characteristics of Soviet military hardware in Iraq, were accepted "with understanding" by the American side.

Recent British newspaper reports which said the Soviet

feet, reluctant to adopt tougher resolutions against a long-time ally.

"The Soviets basically are with the West in this crisis but still may wish to be seen in the Arab World as an independent interlocutor. After all, the Soviets don't want to seem on an American leash," said Sodaro.

He said there could be debate inside the Kremlin about how to react to the crisis, noting, "The Soviets are still in a transition period in their foreign policy."

"Just think, (in the past) we would have been on opposite sides," he said. "With careful nudging they can be urged to cooperate even further."

Both nations have condemned Baghdad's invasion and supported each other's demand their citizens in Iraq and Kuwait be free to leave. And Moscow has agreed to stop its lucrative arms shipments to Iraq.

"But they could also pull their military advisers, terminate some of these contracts. And quite possibly there could be some move at the U.N.," said Sodaro. "Give it time."

Shireen Hunter of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said the Soviets were "hedging their bets on both sides: Joining the United States in condemning the invasion but also trying to keep lines to the Arabs

open."

Moscow denied that by leaving its embassy in Kuwait empty, it had breached its solidarity with Western nations and sided with Iraq. But diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet move was a blow to unity against Baghdad.

"Of course, we would like it to be otherwise, but it was to be expected and frankly we cannot tell the Soviets what to do," said Middle East diplomat.

In New York, diplomats said Thursday the Soviet Union had queried the timing of a resolution that would permit force to uphold a U.N. embargo against Iraq due to doubts the sanctions had been violated.

But the United States said Friday military material and other goods were shipping through the embargo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said if Iraq did not abide by U.N. resolutions, tougher ones may follow.

Despite this warning to Iraq, Hunter said it would be naive to think the Soviets would completely drop old allies and kowtow to Western wishes.

"The Soviets are foot dragging," said Hunter. "And it's frustrating (for U.S. officials). But the important thing is we don't have this East-West confrontation. The U.S. realises this and sees the Soviet cup as half full, not half empty."

American intervention holds long-term perils

By Ed Blanche
Associated Press

NICOSIA — The United States may have saved Saudi Arabia's rulers from being toppled by Iraq, but in the long run the military intervention in the Gulf is fraught with peril for America and its Arab friends.

Unless the United States "takes into account all the long-term implications of the situation, its actions may produce a recipe for permanent upheaval rather than the regional stabilisation which is its aim," Middle East analyst Charles Snow stressed.

Iraq's Aug. 2 take-over of Kuwait has shaken the Arab World, polarising it and triggering new, and often surprising, alliances.

"In the immediate future... the region will be very lucky indeed if there's not an explosion of potentially epic proportions," Snow said.

"Even if this can be avoided, the future looks bleak," said Snow, a veteran analyst with the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey.

Saddam's interment of U.S. and British hostages in Baghdad and Kuwait, and U.S. President George Bush's decision to beef up the U.S. military commitment, including calling up military reserves for the first time in 20 years, has raised the temperature in recent days.

Apart from the prospect of war and the danger Iraq will use chemical weapons, there is the threat of a new wave of attacks on U.S. and Western targets in the Mideast and beyond.

U.S. intervention in Lebanon in 1983 as part of a multinational peacekeeping force ended in disaster. Nearly 300 U.S. and French servicemen were killed in suicide bombings.

The Middle East was restive and uncertain even before Aug. 2. The Palestinian uprising, the end of superpower rivalry that cast the region adrift, and the flood of Soviet Jews to Israel combined to radically alter the Mideast equation.

By linking a withdrawal from Kuwait with Israel's occupation of Arab land, Iraq has widened its appeal to Arab masses and the Muslim world.

Arab moderates have reluctantly gone along with U.S. intervention in Saudi Arabia.

But they're uneasy about the American presence in such a sensitive and strategic region.

"The less time the Iraqis are given to whip up anti-American sentiment in the Arab World, the better as far as Washington is concerned," Snow noted.

Shahram Chinbin, a Middle East specialist with Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies, noted: "The U.S. presence in such force in the land of Islam's holiest places is likely to create a lot of discontent in the Muslim world."

"The semi-permanent presence of the naval armada in the Gulf could well eventually antagonise Iran, even though it has opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," he said in a telephone interview.

"The longer the Americans stay in the Gulf, the worse it will look for them" he said.

The change in the Arab order caused by Iraq's actions will not necessarily be in America's favour. The U.S. intervention may have saved the Saudi royal family for now, but it could ultimately undermine them."

Moscow: No Iraq secrets given to U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet military leaders have denied giving the Americans secrets of Iraq's Moscow-supplied missile systems, a newspaper said Sunday.

It acknowledged that a military attache conferred with the U.S. Defence Department during the American arms buildup in the Gulf crisis.

The Washington attache, General G. Yakovlev, visited the Pentagon at the request of the Americans on Aug. 19, the daily Izvestia said, quoting Soviet Defence Ministry officials.

Yakovlev set out Soviet views on the Gulf and named the kinds of weapons that Moscow had supplied Iraq, long its strongest ally in the Middle East, Izvestia said. However, it said, this information had already been published.

"In accordance with treaty commitments to Iraq and established practice in this sphere of international relations, there was no talk of the quantity and tactical and technical characteristics (of the weapons)," the paper said.

"In the course of the talks, it was also emphasised that the USSR had never supplied any kind of chemical weapons to Iraq," Izvestia said.

It said the information given by Yakovlev, as well as the fact that he did not describe any characteristics of Soviet military hardware in Iraq, were accepted "with understanding" by the American side.

Recent British newspaper reports which said the Soviet

feet, reluctant to adopt tougher resolutions against a long-time ally.

"The Soviets basically are with the West in this crisis but still may wish to be seen in the Arab World as an independent interlocutor. After all, the Soviets don't want to seem on an American leash," said Sodaro.

He said there could be debate inside the Kremlin about how to react to the crisis, noting, "The Soviets are still in a transition period in their foreign policy."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British couple marry in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The British couple trapped in Iraq wanted a simple wedding just wearing jeans. But Iraqi authorities insisted the Gulf crisis should not prevent the betrothed from having a toast of champagne and the traditional kiss. The ceremony Thursday was even broadcast on Baghdad Television Friday. "We have decided to get married while here... we are happy anyway," Deborah, the bride, shouted over Western music blaring from loudspeakers as Iraqis and Britons joined the couple in the dance. The broadcast showed Robert in a dark suit kissing Deborah in a white gown to the tunes of an Iraqi musical band and a children's choir. A throng of Iraqi guests and fellow British hostages wished the couple a happy life thereafter.

Australians protest deployment in Gulf

MELBOURNE (AP) — A group opposed to Australian naval involvement in the Gulf crisis staged a demonstration Saturday and vowed it was just the start of protests around the country. The Gulf Action Committee, a newly formed coalition of anti-American activists, peace advocates and Arab groups, met in the city square before marching to protest outside the U.S. consulate. State legislator Jean McLean said that pressure needed to be maintained on the federal government over Australia's role in the Middle East. "Our prime minister rushed to satisfy his political vanity," McLean told the gathering of several hundred people. Police said the demonstration broke up after reaching the U.S. consulate. No arrests were made.

Australian minister, Mubarak discuss Gulf

CAIRO (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans held talks on the Gulf crisis with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria Sunday, the Middle East News Agency reported. Mubarak told Evans of the need to avoid war in the Gulf, the agency said.

Relief plane crashes in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A U.S.-owned Hercules C-130 cargo plane carrying relief food to famine-stricken Sudanese crashed in southern Sudan earlier this month, a government-owned newspaper said Saturday. The official weekly English newspaper New Horizon said the plane's crew got away with minor injuries and the plane was completely burnt. The cause of the crash was unknown. It was not immediately possible to confirm or deny the report. The newspaper said that a fact-finding committee had been assigned to investigate the crash. The newspaper said the accident occurred Aug. 12 in Juba, the capital of the southern Equatoria region.

Afghan president returns to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan President Najibullah returned to Kabul Saturday only hours after rockets struck the capital city, killing nine people and wounding 15. Najibullah's departure for Moscow on July 29 generated speculation that a settlement to the 12-year-old civil war was being worked out between Washington and the Kremlin. There has been no agreement so far. Spokesmen for the United States and Soviet Union have reported progress on a deal to end the fighting. Najibullah's return to Afghanistan is seen by analysts as a reaffirmation of Moscow's support.

French paratroopers fly to UAE

TOULOUSE, France (R) — Two hundred soldiers of the 1st Hussars parachute regiment left France Sunday for Abu Dhabi to strengthen the French military contingent in the Gulf crisis, military sources said. The unit, accompanied by about 70 officers, technicians and instructors, would help train the forces of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in reconnaissance techniques and the use of French-supplied Crotale air defence missiles, they said. President Francois Mitterrand announced Tuesday that he had ordered the troops to the emirates, where France is also guaranteeing the maintenance of French-built Mirage F-1 combat aircraft belonging to the Kuwaiti air force. The Hussars took with them about 20 light reconnaissance vehicles but left behind their armoured cars.

Ethiopian rebels support Iraq in Gulf dispute

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Sunday that Eritrean rebels fighting the government in northern Ethiopia support Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The agency said the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which has been fighting for the independence of the Red Sea province of Eritrea since 1962, had circulated a statement supporting Iraq and condemning the United States and other nations for their opposition to it. Diplomats said it was well known that the EPLF had received support from Iraq and other Arab states over many years. The Ethiopian authorities, who do not normally report rebel announcements, had done so now in order to discredit the EPLF, the diplomats said. The rebel radio station has not so far broadcast the reported statement.

UAE navy sounds alert about speedboat, divers

BAHRAIN (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) navy asked ships in the Gulf to "watch out" for an unidentified speedboat seen dropping divers at an offshore oil complex off Abu Dhabi early Sunday. Shipping executives, who monitor maritime radio traffic, said platform security agents told a UAE gunboat that the speedboat was spotted early in the morning "dropping men on each side of the three towers" at the Umm Shaif complex. The speedboat returned after "a few minutes" to pick up the divers, the security agents said. They told the gunboat men aboard a security boat saw the speedboat, but could not determine its nationality or what the divers were doing. The speedboat returned later and acted in similar fashion around a fourth tower, they said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:00 Programme review
21:00 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Murder She Wrote
21:00 News in English
22:20 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

06:01 Fajr
06:02 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:12 Maghrib
20:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich
Tel. 80740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.

Assiut International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and windy will be moderately moderate. In Asqab, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18 / 32

Asqab 25 / 32

Deserts 17 / 32

Jordan Valley 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 28, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Aqaba 53 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hamdi Zairi 783708

Dr. Walid Sabarweh 779997

Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364

Dr. Nabil Al Mubtasab 628252

First pharmacy 651912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 623072

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Sunshine pharmacy 637660

IBRD:

Dr. Marwan Habbab (—)

Al Shams pharmacy 965236

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad (—)

Khalifa pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Police 630441

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896900

Flow across Ruweished regains momentum, but under control

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The flow of foreigners leaving Iraq and Kuwait regained momentum Sunday with border officials reporting over 13,000 people arriving at the Ruweished border post by late evening, most of them Egyptians who are being airlifted under an international operation.

According to Interior Ministry officials, over 225,000 have crossed the border into Jordanian territory from Iraq since Aug. 11, when Baghdad opened the frontier for foreigners to leave the country amid rising fears of a military confrontation sparked by its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Jordan's effort to offer basic services to the thousands of evacuees at the border as well as at various camps around the Kingdom was substantially backed by various governments and international organisations.

The European Community, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Migration Organisation, and the European Relief Organisation "medicines frontiers" are extending assistance in cash and in kind to the evacuation operation. In addition, several non-EC European countries, including Sweden, have contributed to the process.

The EC has pledged a total of \$4.3 million to aid the evacuation, including \$850,000 from Italy, the current EC president. Part of the aid is in the form of relief supplies and equipment and the other was being spent on the airlift operation, an Italian diplomat told the Jordan Times.

The British government was providing \$500,000. Saudi Arabia, which sent at least six of its Tristar planes for airlifting Egyptians from Aqaba to Cairo, also sent 200 buses to take Egyptians from Al Ruweished to Aqaba. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

The West German government, which sent a goods and relief consignment worth \$127,000 earlier this week, was dispatching a 167-seat aircraft to fly Egyptian homes in as much as 27 flights. One Belgian C-130 Hercules aircraft landed in Aqaba late Saturday and joined the airlift Sunday and another Belgian plane was scheduled to arrive Sunday.

The Egyptian government meanwhile announced that a total of 85,000 Egyptians had returned home from Iraq and Kuwait since Aug. 2 and another 300,000 were expected soon. Almost 90 per cent of those already arrived are believed to have used the overland route across Jordan.

The situation was also easing

the Aqaba port, with less than 6,000 Egyptians waiting for the ferry across the Red Sea to Nuweibeh in the Sinai.

Asian diplomats and embassy staff, who have adopted a daily routine of driving down to Al Ruweished to arrange transportation for their nationals to Amman from the border, reported, as one of them put it, "a marked improvement" from early last week.

"People are no longer swarming around, making everyone's work difficult," the diplomat commented. Tents were springing up in the area to house the evacuees awaiting transport to Amman, and several medical centres were offering services to the sick, witnesses reported from the scene. No major health problems were reported.

Diplomatic sources were sceptical of a report that Syria had opened its border with Iraq to take in Egyptians to be ferried home down the Mediterranean to Suez. An Asian diplomat said his embassy in Damascus had informed him that the Iraqi-Syrian border was not open, and the only crossing through the post was made by eight westerners who had actually fled from Baghdad.

Indian ministers visit
Two Indian state ministers, one from the southern state of Kerala and the other from the

Western state of Gujarat, Sunday visited the Al Ruweished post on what one of them described as a mission to gain firsthand information on the evacuation process and the difficulties encountered.

T.K. Hamzah, public works minister of Kerala, and Narihar Amin, home minister of Gujarat, arrived here late Saturday from Saudi Arabia where they visited camps set up for Indians leaving Kuwait.

According to Hamzah, the objective of the visit is "to gain first-hand information of the plight of our nationals living in Kuwait, and how the process of their evacuation is continuing."

"There is a great deal of anxiety in Kerala, where almost every house has one expatriate in the Gulf, over what is happening in Kuwait, and I hope to have a fair and clear picture to present before them when I go back," Hamzah told the Jordan Times.

Of the 170,000 Indians who used to live in Kuwait before the Iraqi takeover, 80,000 were believed to be from Kerala state. According to embassy figures, the bulk of the Indians being evacuated through Jordan is from Kerala. Amin said that there was a large number of people from his state also living in Kuwait.

"We are here to see for ourselves the process, and seek to help whatever our embassy is doing," he told the Jordan Times.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday urged the authorities which provide assistance to Arab and foreign nationals now living temporarily in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait to give special attention to women and children.

The Princess will be held at the Philadelphia International Hotel on 28 August, 1990, starting 9:30 a.m.

Speaking at the symposium, which comes as part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children, due to convene in New York on 29-30 September 1991, will be a number of Jordanian experts and specialists.

Participants will discuss five working papers on the basic needs of children, women's contribution to development, and the role of the voluntary sector in promoting health, child welfare and ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the World Declaration on Child Rights.

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations organisations operating in Jordan Sunday announced a \$753,000 worth of food supplies and \$100,000 in cash as a grant to Jordan to help the Kingdom cope with the new responsibilities it is facing in view of the huge influx of Arab and foreign expatriates arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

The announcement was made after a meeting held at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office here presided over by U.N. resident representative Ali Attia.

Those attending the meeting were representatives of UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

UNICEF said that it would supply 13 tonnes of blankets, tents and essential drugs from its emergency warehouses in Europe.

The shipment of relief supplies is being airlifted free of charge from Amsterdam by Royal Jordanian (RJ).

With this airlift, expected Sunday evening, UNICEF will have completed its initial response to the Jordanian government's appeal for emergency aid to people transiting Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait en route to their home countries.

Over the past three days, UNICEF had delivered locally purchased mattresses, water tanks and containers which have been distributed through the Jordanian authorities to refugees in transit at the Marj Al Hamam International Trade Fair Centre south west of Amman.

UNDRP said it was supplying 40 tonnes of biscuits and two pallets of relief supplies and water bottles as well as blankets and kitchen utensils offered by the Norwegian government.

It said that the planes were due here Monday.

According to UNDRP \$30,000 in cash will be presented to the Jordanian government to purchase other necessities.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A standing parliamentary committee responsible for following up developments in the Gulf and their effects on Jordan Sunday heard a briefing by Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf and the ministry's Secretary-General Motazz Al Bilbeisi on the water situation in the Kingdom.

Khalaf told the committee of his ministry's preparedness to meet any eventuality and plans to deal with emergencies with regard to water supplies to the public, and reassured the committee of the sound precautionary measures.

The parliamentary committee said Saturday that it would be

hearing the views of the ministers of water, supply and energy about the situation, and their plans to ensure sufficient water, energy sources and food supplies to the country in the event of emergency.

The committee, which is being kept alert round the clock to deal with any emergency, was continuing contacts with various concerned authorities on matters of concern to the public in general.

Among the decisions taken by the committee was despatching parliamentary teams to Turkey and Iran in the coming month in a bid to enlist their help in defusing the Gulf crisis.

Symposium on voluntary organisations' role to be held

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Princess Basma urges special care for women and children evacuees

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evacuees have been under the care of the Jordanian Hashemite Society for Charity and Relief.

Princess Basma was briefed by the society's Secretary-General Abdul Salam Al Ahadi about the services and about the volume of expatriates benefitting from them, and also about the daily arrivals and departures.

Abbsdi briefed the Princess about the difficulties these expatriates encounter and the services they require urgently.

The society, he said, is coordinating services with the Jordanian boys scouts and girl guides, and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

For its part, the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) announced that it had collected JD 2,000 and great quantities of in-kind contributions for the evacuees; and its teams were distributing the donations at various centres.

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The announcement was made after a meeting held at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office here presided over by U.N. resident representative Ali Attia.

Those attending the meeting were representatives of UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

UNICEF said that it would supply 13 tonnes of blankets, tents and essential drugs from its emergency warehouses in Europe.

The shipment of relief supplies is being airlifted free of charge from Amsterdam by Royal Jordanian (RJ).

With this airlift, expected Sunday evening, UNICEF will have completed its initial response to the Jordanian government's appeal for emergency aid to people transiting Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait en route to their home countries.

Over the past three days, UNICEF had delivered locally purchased mattresses, water tanks and containers which have been distributed through the Jordanian authorities to refugees in transit at the Marj Al Hamam International Trade Fair Centre south west of Amman.

UNDRP said it was supplying 40 tonnes of biscuits and two pallets of relief supplies and water bottles as well as blankets and kitchen utensils offered by the Norwegian government.

It said that the planes were due here Monday.

According to UNDRP \$30,000 in cash will be presented to the Jordanian government to purchase other necessities.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A standing parliamentary committee responsible for following up developments in the Gulf and their effects on Jordan Sunday heard a briefing by Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf and the ministry's Secretary-General Motazz Al Bilbeisi on the water situation in the Kingdom.

Khalaf told the committee of his ministry's preparedness to meet any eventuality and plans to deal with emergencies with regard to water supplies to the public, and reassured the committee of the sound precautionary measures.

The parliamentary committee said Saturday that it would be

Mahdieb Zmelli, the federation's president, said that many of the evacuees were being looked after at mosques and that it was arranging for free medical services to the guests.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) also Sunday announced a series of measures to bring relief to the evacuees who include UNRWA staff.

It said in a statement that assistance and accommodation had been offered to some 450 expatriates from the Philippines, and medical services to up to 7,000 evacuees of different nationalities at the request of the Jordanian government.

The agency, the statement added, has provided 23 buses to transport the expatriates from the border post of Ruweished, near the border with Iraq, to Aqaba where they gather for departure by air or sea.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday urged the authorities which provide assistance to Arab and foreign nationals now living temporarily in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait to give special attention to women and children.

The Princess will be held at the Philadelphia International Hotel on 28 August, 1990, starting 9:30 a.m.

Speaking at the symposium, which comes as part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children, due to convene in New York on 29-30 September 1991, will be a number of Jordanian experts and specialists.

Participants will discuss five working papers on the basic needs of children, women's contribution to development, and the role of the voluntary sector in promoting health, child welfare and ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the World Declaration on Child Rights.

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Women's rally supports King Hussein's stand

SOUTH MAZAR (Petra) — South Mazar Club Sunday was the scene for a public women's rally, during which women made speeches, praising His Majesty King Hussein's pan-Arab stands and his efforts in defending Arab causes.

In their speeches, women denounced the foreign intervention in the region, saying that it was aimed at getting hold of the Arab resources and wealth to prevent the progress and development of the Arab Nation.

They said that the Arab homeland was exposed to the largest and most fierce imperialist invasion that contemporary history has witnessed. "This invasion is part of a campaign led by the United States in a bid to make the Iraqi people and the whole Arab Nation surrender, the women said.

They pledged support for King Hussein's leadership and highly appreciated his support for Iraq. The women underlined the role the Jordanian women can play in supporting the Arab right, and called on all Jordanian women to reduce a consumption and to attend civil defence training courses in case of emergencies.

Saudis said harassing truck drivers at border

By Ali Maharrwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Reports intensified Sunday that Jordanian truck drivers transporting food supplies to Saudi Arabia were being harassed by Saudi border officials and police. According to several transport companies dealing with Saudi officials on a day-to-day basis, numerous truck drivers reported being harassed and subjected to abuse by Saudi officials and police.

The Union of Truck Owners said it had received word of truck drivers being harassed by the Saudis. The union said, however, that truck drivers, fearing reprisals by the Saudis, had refrained from issuing formal complaints to the union.

"Saudi border controls at the Hail Amman checkpoint have been unusually harsh over the past weeks; they (the Saudis) damaged the cooling system of the truck, searched it over and over again and even damaged some of the cargo," a Jordanian truck driver said. Similar reports were received about the conduct of Saudi officials on the transit road to the United Arab Emirates, where Jordanian trucks were apparently held at the Saudi-Emirate border for several days while their trucks were thoroughly searched.

"The Saudis have always been very meticulous in searching our trucks as they often suspected us of smuggling drugs and alcohol, but what I encountered during my last tour was extreme. They practically tore everything apart," one truck driver, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the Jordan Times.

These reported harassments by the Saudi border officials according to the truckers seem to be arbitrary acts of individuals and do not represent the official Saudi government policy. "After the Saudi border police threatened to turn us back at the Saudi-Emirate border, we told them that we were their brothers and had nothing to do with politics. Subsequently, they let us pass," another truck driver said.

Reports that Jordanian trucks, carrying goods to Saudi Arabia, had been turned back at the Jordanian-Saudi border were denied by official government sources and trucking companies.

"The export of Jordanian vegetables to Saudi Arabia is continuing at a normal pace; reports of trucks being turned back (at the border) and of the disruption of the supply line to Saudi Arabia are unfounded and untrue," the Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Supply Razi Ibrahim confirmed this, saying that traffic between Jordan and Saudi Arabia was flowing in a normal manner with no delays or hindrances on either side of the border being reported.

"A special governmental committee, comprising officials from various ministries, was set up to deal with border problems arising from the current Gulf crisis; it (the committee) has not received any information about obstacles facing traffic at the Saudi-Jordanian border," Ibrahim maintained.

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 8,000 people from Irbid Governorate have so far enrolled in civil defence training courses, now being held at 59 centres throughout the governorate, according to Irbid Civil Defence Department Director Brigadier Naser Barakat.

In Thatta Ras village in Karak Governorate, 40 women had a civil defence training course Sunday.

In Amman, the civil defence committee at the Ministry of Awqaf held a meeting Sunday to discuss the roles of the ministry departments in the various parts of the country.

The ministry formed an operation room, which will work round the clock, in case emergencies happen.

In Mahes, the Civil Defence Department held a meeting at

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In Mahes, the Civil Defence Department held a meeting at

the Mahes Youth Club and adopted an organisation plan, whereby the town will be divided into several zones, including Arida, downtown, the hospital, the schools.

The committee decided to set up sub-committees, supervising the first aid, rescue and national guidance activities.

In Balqa Governorate Governor Faleh Al Gharaibeh inspected several public and private shelter in Salt and called on all officials and citizens in the governorate to prepare the shelters and ensure that they are well-entitled and cleaned.

In Amman, University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra visited the military training field where university students are receiving military training.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday urged the authorities which provide assistance to Arab and foreign nationals now living temporarily in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait to give special attention to women and children.

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Speaking at the symposium, which comes as part of the national preparations for

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Forgive the interruption

"LIFE AS usual" it has not been for us here in Jordan for the past twenty-five days. Up and until Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, Jordanians were going about their business, conducting their lives, like any other people on earth.

On the political side, we had been in the middle of debating a national charter, a form of social contract between the state and its constituent parts, to reach a framework for organising political life in the Kingdom on the basis of a democratic system and justice for all. We had set foot on a democratic rule last November, when fair and free parliamentary elections were held for the first time since 1967. The foremost task of the charter has been to legalise political parties in a system of government that would be acceptable to the vast majority of Jordanians, if not to all. While committee work on the proposed social contract continues, it has nevertheless been disrupted, or at least overshadowed, by the historic events happening around us.

On the economic front, we had set ourselves on the course of a so-called "correction programme" whose guidelines were drawn up by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Our economy had suffered a near collapse 18 months earlier, when our foreign currency reserves ran out and foreign debt mounted to over \$8 billion. We had been doing well, economic sacrifice on the part of most Jordanian families notwithstanding, and the programme was moving on a target. Up and until Aug. 2 that is. As we now hear that we stand to lose some \$4 billion as a result of the "need" to go along with the international boycott against Iraq.

On the science and education level, we had been holding meetings, seminars and debates almost on daily basis to find the best path towards true development and the right balance of providing good education to all our children within our limited resources.

Both houses of parliament had been busy debating draft laws governing our way of life to replace temporary laws under which we had lived for many years. And in the process, our deputies and senators, along with the press and other institutions, spared no effort in discussing all issues — social, economic and political — pertinent to nation-building and facing outside challenges.

The greatest of those challenges came from Israel, which has been taking in tens of thousands of Soviet and other Jewish immigrants, settling some of them in our (occupied) territories and the rest in an area with very little capacity for human expansion, for lack of water and other material resources.

We had been busy organising our lives, you might say, facing external challenges and building at home for a better future. But the effort had to be interrupted, since what had happened nearby, and what might be happening in the near future, would have the greatest impact on our country and society.

Today everybody in Jordan does not seem to care about the interruption. We do naturally think about it and try to assess what is in it for us, but not to the extent of making it the overriding concern. We simply cannot ignore the fact that everything will depend on the outcome of today's Gulf crisis.

It is not really a question of whether if the Sabah family is reinstated we lose and if it is not we win. The real issue here is whether a war will erupt over this rather irrelevant question. Should a shooting war start, there might not be a semblance of the old life left, not only in Jordan but in the greater part of the whole region. Should, on the other hand, be a way out of this mess, we all can have a sigh of relief. There will remain problems of course. Israel's occupation of Arab lands being on top of them. But then the whole world will have been spared a terrible disaster.

A happy ending can still come if every country that has occupied other territories by force goes back to its original borders. If that entails the continued absence of a hundred or so rich Kuwaitis from power corridors in their country, and the free election of new governments in the evacuated territories, in the West Bank and Gaza and Kuwait, then let that be the solution.

Jordan and the Jordanians would happily forgive the interruption if there were to be such an outcome.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI daily on Sunday described U.N. Security Council resolution allowing various nations to use force in applying sanctions on Iraq as illegal and violating international laws. The same Security Council which imposed such arbitrary measure has failed for the past 23 years to implement its own resolutions concerning the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, said the paper. It is really impossible to interpret such an irresponsible and unreasonable attitude on the part of the council members who have failed to force Israel to give up land it has been occupying by force over the past two decades, the paper continued. The Security Council should have adopted the Iraqi initiative which calls for the withdrawal of all forces from other countries' territories including Palestine in a package deal to end the Gulf and other crises in the Middle East, the paper noted. Nations involved in the blockade on Iraq should now realise the dangerous situation in which the Council has placed them now, and they ought to understand that any firing on Iraqi vessels or interceptions could trigger a dangerous conflict that would engulf them as well as the region itself, the paper added. The paper said that the U.N. Security Council resolution has no doubt added a new explosive element to the dangerous situation in the Middle East, but it is up to the leaders of the European nations to take extra care so as not to slide further towards war.

Demography gains, economy suffers

By Johnathan Karp
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

An influx of Soviet Jews to Israel poses one of the most serious economic and social challenges since the mass immigration of Jews from Arab states in the 1950s.

Israel sees demographic benefits from the influx and the government forecasts that a million Soviet immigrants could flood the country by the end of 1994, boosting the Jewish population by 27 per cent and the total population by 20 per cent.

While it should pull Israel's economy out of two years of stagnation, the jolt may be too strong. The influx has sparked fierce debate over spending priorities and warnings of lower living standards.

The finance ministry estimates the immigration will cost up to \$20 billion, a steep price for a country with an annual state budget of \$33 billion and foreign currency reserves of \$4.2 billion.

"No matter how the government balances the budget and cut subsidies it will not have the money to fund the immigration," a Bank of Israel economist told Reuters. Israel would have to borrow from the United States, he said.

Six months ago Israeli leaders were delighted by the flow for increasing the Jewish majority over the 650,000 Palestinians in Israel and 1.75 million in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Today, after the arrival of at least 70,000 Soviet Jews, Israel is groping to solve a housing shortage that could reach 29,000 units this year, find jobs for newcomers amid more than 10 per cent unemployment — the highest in two decades — and keep a lid on 18 per cent annual inflation.

Efforts to tackle the problems come against a backdrop of street demonstrations by Israelis — who have been forced out of their homes by soaring rents — and of sharp criticism of a cut in bread subsidies to help finance the immigration.

Parliament this month passed a \$1.2 billion budget supplement that shifted funds to immigration, and the cabinet approved a plan to import 14,000 ready-made homes and let private businesses bring in 6,000 more.

"It will mean a greater balance of payments deficit, further pressure on foreign currency reserves and greater

difficulty in raising capital for the Israeli economy," said Finance Ministry Director General Yaacov Lifshitz in opposing the housing plan.

Despite Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's demand that the state shoulder most of the cost, the treasury insists it cannot increase the budget deficit beyond its already high level of about six per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, trying to shrink the state role in the economy, has urged businessmen to share the "risk and credit" for absorbing immigrants. He also wants to revive dormant privatisation programme to raise foreign currency.

Modai plans to submit a plan soon to liberalise the economy.

Among economic targets outlined by the treasury for the next five years is the creation of 540,000 jobs just to keep unemployment at nine per cent until the end of 1994.

The current workforce is about 1.5 million of the 4.6 million citizens.

Unlike the 500,000 immigrants who flooded Israel in the early 1950s, nearly doubling the Jewish population of the young state, the Soviet immigrants are highly educated.

Two-thirds of the adults have advanced degrees and more than a third are scientists, academics or doctors, complicating efforts to find jobs in the short-term.

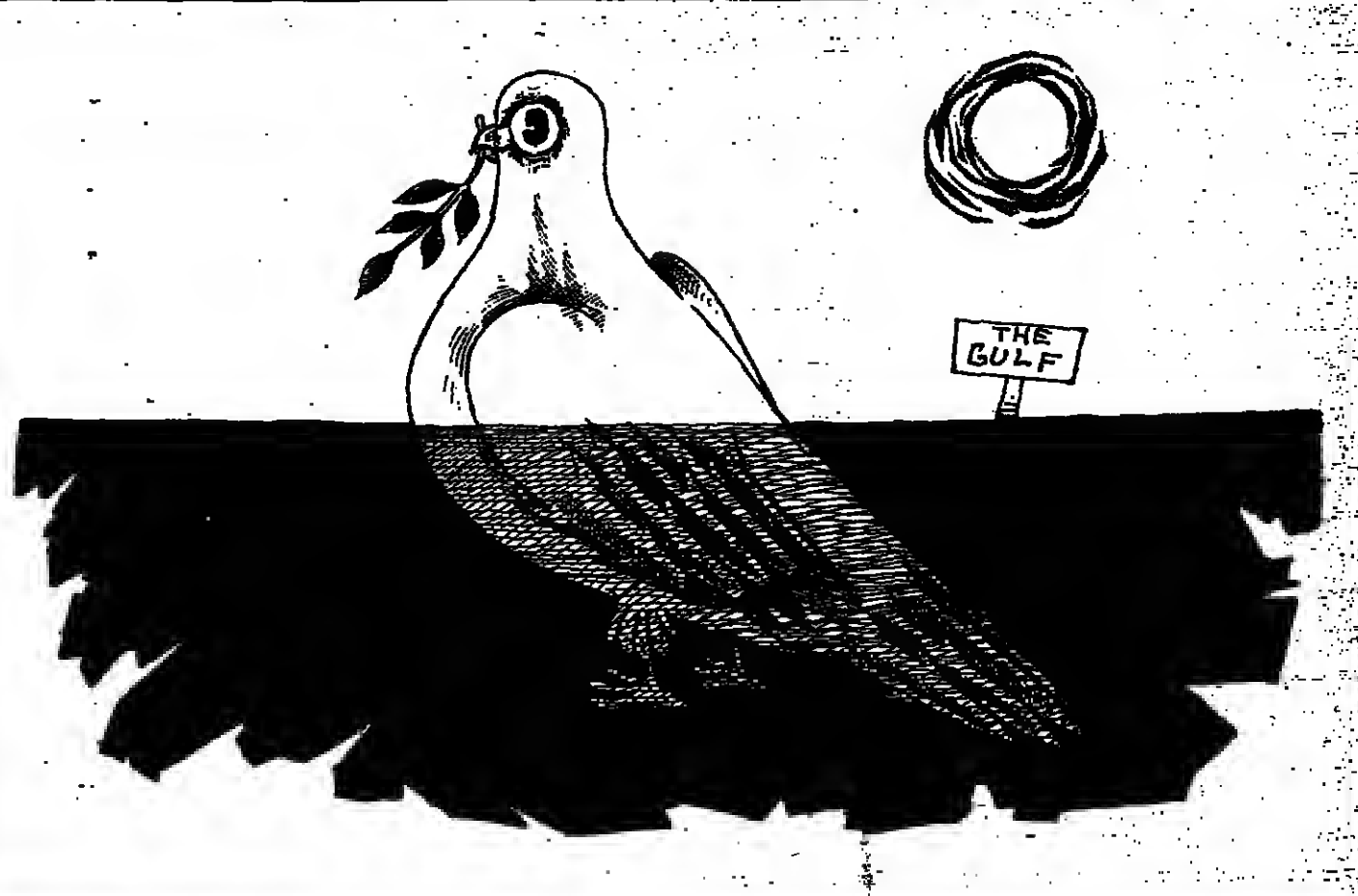
"Everyone has been saying this is an immigration of intellectuals, but this may well turn out to be a welfare disaster," the Central Bank economist said.

Some 42,500 immigrants will enter the job market this year, the Bank of Israel says, prompting a debate over starting non-productive projects that would amount to "work for work's sake."

"The aliyah (immigration) will provide a boon to the economy. It's like striking oil, but you have to make sure the immigrants are employed productively," said Herbert Stein, a U.S. government economist. Washington gives Israel \$1.2 billion in annual economic aid.

Stein, attending talks on the Soviet immigration, criticised Israel for not liberalising its economy fast enough.

Analysis in Israel expressed concern that the United States, which is trying to cut its own budget deficit, might link any request for immigration aid to Israel to the acceptance of U.S. efforts to open peace talks with Palestinians.



Israel tries reward policy to quell Palestinian uprising

By Arie O'Sullivan
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — The army plans to lower the Israeli flag and remove a tent encampment near Gaza City as part of a new policy intended to reduce friction with Palestinians.

Soldiers have orders not to open fire and to avoid confrontations with stone-throwing youths. Patrols rarely enter the villages and crowded refugee camps.

The disengagement reflects a radical shift in the army's military doctrine, and its effectiveness is reducing bloodshed in the Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987.

No one has been killed since May in the Gaza Strip, where the uprising began. In July, three Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, the lowest monthly toll of the revolt, in which Israelis have killed more than 700 Palestinians.

"This can't be called turning a blind eye... but whoever thought of it was brilliant," a military commander said, on condition of anonymity.

He said the policy had been implemented gradually after the massacre of seven Gaza workers by an Israeli gunman

May 20 started 10 days of riots in which 18 Palestinians died.

Assad Saftawi, an elementary school principal and leading PLO supporter in the Gaza Strip, described the new policy as a ploy by Defence Minister Moshe Arens to improve Israel's image abroad.

Some prominent Palestinians say the uprising is in trouble and seek a new, longer-term strategy to revive morale.

Hamdi Faraj, a journalist in Bethlehem, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should acknowledge the revolt, or intifada, has flagged and is unlikely to bring Palestinian statehood in the new future.

"There is a gap between what the PLO says and what the people see," he said. "The state is not a stone's throw away like they claim in slogans."

"At the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in the West Bank, several activists blamed Palestine Liberation Organisation policy for the revolt's loss of impetus and accused Arafat of making concessions without getting anything in return.

Khaled, 25, who says he has been wounded three times and served 10 months in jail without trial, said Arens timed his

change of strategy well. "The intifada has cooled down and Arens played his cards at the right time because people are tired and not chasing after the army," he said.

Ibrahim, 33, said, "the intifada has almost stopped, and the people have to start realising that they have to take the solution in their own hands and do it themselves." He said younger men should be brought into the PLO leadership.

Neither gave his last name. For the army, the Arens policy signifies reversal of a longstanding military doctrine of taking the offensive and confronting each small demonstration to keep riots from developing.

"It was very strange for the soldiers, who have been drilled to charge, to attack and to fire, to be told, 'halt, restrain yourselves,'" the military commander said.

Because of the relative quiet, he said, an army encampment set up in the middle of the village of Beit Hanun would be dismantled and the troops evacuated. Villagers were told soldiers would return in force at the first signs of violence.

Restraint also was evident

elsewhere. From an army lookout post near the Jabalia Refugee Camp, black smoke could be seen rising as Palestinian youths ignited a tyre in the streets.

In the past, such an act would have brought swift action by an army patrol, and possibly casualties.

This time, Itzak, a 21-year-old first sergeant, looked at the smoke and shrugged his shoulders.

"We'll probably let it burn itself out," he said. "Besides, it creates a lot of heavy black smoke and the (Palestinians) have to breathe it. If it were four or five tyres, then we'd probably go in with a company" of about 100 men, he said.

Politicians have praised the army for restraint, but military spokesmen said some soldiers of lower rank "felt it could be interpreted as a sign of weakness."

Young Palestinians say they will carry the fight to the army.

"Arens might pull back the soldiers, but in that case, we will start chasing the army," said a 17-year-old, who showed a reporter wounds behind the ear and on his arm from rubber-coated steel bullets.

King begins Maghreb tour

(Continued from page 1)

Liberation Organisation's political department passed through Amman before meeting Saddam in Baghdad in the past two days.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem flew to Bahrain Sunday after a trip to China and handed a message from King Hussein to the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

In Baghdad, Saddam was at the airport to greet the Sudanese leader and the two Libyan envoys, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. They began their talks soon afterwards.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat was also in Baghdad where he was reported to have asked the Soviet Union to "work harder" to avoid war in the Gulf region. The Palestinian news agency

Wafa said Arafat told Soviet special envoy Mikhail Sitenko that the PLO "rejected" attempts by the United States aiming to reestablish their domination over the region and to impose their conditions.

Moscow has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but said it would not join U.S. and British warships in the Gulf in using force to enforce a blockade against Baghdad.

U.N. chief, Aziz to meet here

(Continued from page 1)

"Whether it's possible to start a dialogue I cannot foresee right now, but I think it's important to make an effort to negotiate," he told reporters.

"It is a very serious situation, one of the most serious since the Cuban missile crisis, since the Berlin blockade," he said, referring to Moscow's attempt to cut off supplies to West Berlin, surrounded by then-communist East Germany.

Waldheim, a former United Nations secretary general, returned to Vienna with 96 Austrians allowed by Saddam to leave with him at the end of his one-day visit. Another plane brought some 20 other Austrians as well as five Sri Lankans and up to seven Dutch citizens from Kuwait.

The Austrian president said Saddam had set no conditions for the departure of the Austrian community, and he is in turn had made no concessions to Iraq.

Meanwhile, fears of conflict rose after Iraq said it would immediately retaliate militarily if any of its ships are sunk or damaged by warships in the Gulf enforcing a tighter blockade under the terms of Saturday's Security Council vote.

"We will sink of their ships, maybe two, and if they attack us

we will attack them," Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam said in an interview Saturday.

Jassam said Iraq would not, in the first instance, retaliate against Saudi Arabia or the vulnerable tankers lifting oil from the main Saudi oil terminal at Ras Tanura in the Gulf.

However he did not rule out the possibility that a conflict between Iraq and the Western blockading squadrons in the Gulf would ultimately affect the oil fields.

President Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft sidestepped a question Saturday of how much force the United States was willing to use to choke off commerce to and from Iraq.

Asked during a Cable News Network interview whether the United States planned to board, seize or even sink ships moving goods between Iraq and other nations, Scowcroft said only that American vessels will use "the minimum amount of interference with traffic in order to make the sanctions effective."

Scowcroft said the U.N. resolution "means no commerce should go in and out of (Iraq) by sea and that means that vessels will be stopped and inspected," effective immediately.

Asked whether the United States now had a free hand in the Gulf to do as it wants in enforcing the blockade, he said "I believe



Perez de Cuellar

that's the case."

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported in Sunday's edition that the administration was studying the possibility of offering political asylum to the crews of Iraqi vessels to persuade them to cooperate with the embargo.

The idea is to persuade the crews to give up without resorting to violence, the paper reported, quoting administration and Pentagon officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

American intelligence officials say the tanker crews are under orders from Baghdad to ignore warnings to halt, even if fired upon, the paper said.

Swimming against the tide of the future

By Guy Dinmore
Reuter

BEIJING — Swimming in the balmy waters of their well-guarded summer resort, China's aged leaders can look back with some satisfaction on a year of relative political and economic calm following their crushing of pro-democracy unrest.

But, according to Chinese intellectuals within and outside the Communist Party, the cost of using the army to quell nationwide protests in June, 1989, has proved enormous.

"The party calls this stability but actually it's stagnation," commented one economist.

This year's summer convalescence in the resort of Beidaihe, east of the capital, may well prove crucial as the Central Committee prepares to meet to map out future strategies.

Veteran hardliners are pushing for a thorough purge of the party and armed forces but armed forces but resistance from reformists and an entrenched bureaucracy has resulted in deadlock.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's reforms 12 years ago, has lost his absolute authority. He turned 86 last week and the power struggle for his successor continues unabated. The economy flounders without direction and the military is factionalised.

With the state-controlled media, a year of investigations and humiliating "self-criticisms" are coming to a head.

The result is apparently a limited victory for hardliners who have exacted revenge on those who played a leading role in the 1989 protests, when hundreds of editors and journalists took to the streets and enjoyed a brief period of free speech.

Two deputy editors at the Party

Organ People's daily have been disciplined, journalists say.

An editor in the new hardline Guangming Daily has been demoted from the theoretical bureau to the library. Elsewhere, a few dissenting journalists have been expelled from the party and two monthly magazines in Shanghai have been shut down.

"They're afraid of truth and knowledge," said one reporter. But purges within the media, intellectuals say, are a sideshow compared with the immense power struggle within the military which may decide China's future.

Official commentaries openly reveal the problems facing orthodox ideologists such as general Yang Baibing, the army's 70-year-old political commissar who with his half-brother president Yang Shangkun leads a powerful military faction.

A survey of 500 senior members of the people's armed police in Guangdong Province, bordering capitalist Hong Kong, revealed "alarming" inefficiencies, the legal daily said recently.

"Quite a large proportion of respondents could not answer the question 'what are the basic features of socialism,'" it said.

"As for the question 'in what way is socialism superior?', many said they did not know. And answering 'which is better socialism or capitalism?' many answered 'not sure'." Legal Daily reported in barely disguised astonishment.

The Liberation Army Daily, largely controlled by General Yang, last week suggested leading party cells within the military for not faithfully using the official line.

Following a major reshuffle of military commanders and middle-ranking officers in recent months, the article heralded a purge among political commissars, di-

plomats said.

Party-sponsored campaigns such as "learn from Lei Feng," a semi-mythical paragon of Maoist virtue, have apparently fizzled out after several months of unremitting media barrage.

"The party has little more to offer than worn-out slogans and campaigns. The only real road forward is political reform as (Soviet Leader Mikhail) Gorbachev has done but they don't dare," a dissident party member commented.

The nominal political head of the armed forces is Jiang Zemin, who, as a compromise candidate sponsored by Deng, took over as party leader in June 1989 after the reformist Zhao Ziyang was ousted by hardliners.

Many Chinese fear that Jiang, widely seen as an uninspiring technocrat, will not be able to hold this country of 1.1 billion people together, after Deng's death.

"The power struggle will be resolved through violence. It is the only way in this system," said one intellectual, a victim of the recent purge. He predicted that a "military technocrat" would emerge to lead China.

A recent unpublished opinion poll showed that city dwellers were saving their money out of fear of turmoil not — as claimed by the authorities — because inflation has fallen sharply.

Bank savings were at a record level but represented only a third of what people had at home, said the economist. "You can't escape into the countryside with your television," he added.

"The status quo could be maintained for some time. You can survive even if lots of people are mad with you. You try to keep urban workers happy and inflation down," a Western diplomat commented.

Handwritten text in Arabic script.

Political and economic future bleak for Bulgaria

By Michael Battye
Reporter

NEW DELHI — Artillery duels in the high Himalayas of Kashmir have renewed fears in India and Pakistan that the two old enemies will go to war yet again over the territory.

The "will-not-they" debate is in full swing.

Some Western diplomats said in Delhi on Friday they were pessimistic after Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh promised parliament a "well-graded response" to heavy shelling he charged Pakistan had started.

"You are talking about grading upwards. That wasn't good news. It's definitely worrying," said one.

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since independence from Britain in 1947 — two of them over Kashmir — was less pessimistic but still appeared nervous.

"We can only hope and pray it doesn't happen. We would expect that things shouldn't go that far," Pakistan Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said in an interview.

India, however, was sanguine. "War is not going to happen."

The game is more subtle than that," said a close aide to Singh. But what worries many of both sides is that a game requiring astute management of delicately balanced pressures could easily get out of control.

Those pressures include severe internal political problems in both countries that might be cured by war and tens of thousands of nervous soldiers facing each other at close range.

Above all there is the deep emotion aroused by any problem involving nations partitioned on independence amid bloodshed in which more than nine million people died.

Said one source who asked not to be identified, a colleague who spoke with Singh found him passionately anti-Pakistan. "He was not at all conciliatory, which we found very depressing."

But despite all that, most Indians who follow their nation's relations with Pakistan closely do not foresee war.

"Each side will keep the pot boiling for the other without wanting to let the pressure get out of hand," said analyst Pran Chopra of Delhi's Centre for Policy Research.

Last year's thoughts of improving relations vanished when a separatist uprising in Jammu and

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, burst on an unprepared Indian government in January.

More than 1,100 people have been killed and Indian security forces have been accused of rape, torture and looting.

Delhi says Pakistan is arming and training the Kashmiri militants and that it started the artillery duels — the first in the area since 1962 according to experts in both capitals — to cover infiltration of fighters.

That is flatly denied in Islamabad. "The fact is we have nothing to do with what Kashmiris are doing on their own," said a Pakis-

tani military spokesman. Pakistan gives only moral support, Jatoi said.

Nobody in Delhi believes that, any more than anyone in Islamabad believes Indian denials that it is behind violence in Pakistan's Sind province that started again when the melting of spring snow allowed Kashmiri militants to infiltrate over the passes.

Delhi officials say Islamabad's goal is, by taking Kashmir, to start the break-up of polyglot India, which faces two other serious separatist movements, and end its role as regional superpower.

Indian analysts generally doubt

it can do that. "But even so, if they can keep it on the boil it is a very low investment to make to keep India off balance and embarrass India internationally a great deal," said Chopra.

Meetings between senior foreign ministry officials failed to open up ways to calm the tension.

"The meetings were totally and completely ineffective," said a senior Indian official. "Things are not good."

Nor are they likely to get better if India is correct in saying the militants plan to infiltrate up to 6,000 fighters and big quantities of arms before snow starts closing

the passes from Pakistani Kashmir in late September.

"We are in for a very bad winter," said the official. "That means there will be more tension, but not a war."

Some Western diplomats said they feared India might launch an attack to end Pakistan's alleged support for separatists in Kashmir and Punjab once and for all.

Senior officials denied any such plans and Chopra said war made no strategic sense.

"India's interest is in keeping what it has. It is not in India's interest to carry the war across to the other side. No sane calculation would advocate that."

Swedish model develops cracks

By Claire Pedrick

STOCKHOLM — The Swedish model, the system which came to be the envy of Western Europeans and drew grudging respect from the Communist East, is beginning to show its age.

After more than 30 years of coexisting with citizens with cradle-to-the-grave benefits, Sweden's government has made it clear that the good times are over. The political crisis which erupted in February has also become a crisis of ideology for Ingvar Carlsson's Social Democrats, the party which has dominated Swedish politics for over half a century and that was the architect of the social welfare state.

Flying in the face of cherished party ideals centered on a system of lavish benefits for all, Carlsson has staked his political future on a series of very un-Swedish measures. A tough austerity package, which would have included a two-year wage and price freeze and a law banning strikes, was rejected and the government fell, but Carlsson succeeded in reviving it with a watered-down formula.

Heading the list of changes in a far-reaching fiscal reform which will cut income tax rates by half for many people. In a country which has traditionally had the highest income taxes in the world to pay for its elaborate welfare system, the move is a dramatic one. From Jan. 1, 1991, the upper limit will be cut from 72 per cent to 50 per cent. Around 85 per cent of the population will end up paying the base rate of 30 per cent, says the government.

For many people in Sweden, it was time for a change, it seems. The cracks in the Swedish model have been showing for a while. "The old recipes aren't working any more," commented Hans Tson Soderstrom, executive director of Stockholm's Business and Policies Studies Centre, an economic think-tank.

Based on a two-pronged policy of a catch-all welfare state and full employment for everyone, the Swedish model has long been admired for the high living standards it afforded its citizens and for the ideals it managed to preserve while doing so. Over the years, even Communists from the East Bloc came to see it as the almost-acceptable face of capitalism, and it provided a model that new governments in Eastern Europe regarded as their best option.

Swedish citizens are looked after from the minute they are born until they draw their last breath. Ironically, the only time they are not covered is after death itself — a funeral is one of the few services not paid for by the state. Births are, however, and so are kindergartens, schools, universities, hospitals and homes for the elderly. There are generous allowances for every eventuality — in the form of sick pay, child care, housing, unemployment benefits, disability and retirement pensions.

"Whatever happens to you in Sweden, the public sector will

take care of you," said Dr. Sven Olsson, a sociologist at Stockholm University and author of a recently published book on the Swedish welfare state. The price, of course, is high taxes.

"It's the old Marxist proposition: from everyone according to his ability, to everyone according to his need," said Soderstrom.

"The trouble is, the Swedish model as it used to be just isn't functioning anymore. The whole line of thinking has changed. People are beginning to see that it serves a useful purpose to let people retain more of what they earn and to let them pay for the things they use."

Hoping to arrest the problem of lack of incentive and to encourage the Swedes to start saving, Carlsson's government has replaced a large chunk of direct taxation with more duties on purchased goods and services. The total revenue will remain the same, but the Swedish people will have more money in their pay packets and will be able to choose how they spend it.

But high taxation is not the only reason for the crisis. An important factor in the Social Democrat philosophy has been its labour policy, one which is now starting to fall apart at the seams.

Sweden is one of the few non-Communist countries to have achieved full employment, perceiving it as the right of every man — and woman — to earn his place in society by working. Unemployment currently stands at an incredible low 1.5 per cent. But, worthy though its aims may be, it is a policy which many now agree has backfired, giving rise to two grave problems — labour shortages and spiralling wage increases.

The system worked well as long as wage negotiations were controlled by the LO, the giant blue-collar trade union federation which, under an agreement drawn up back in 1938, undertook to bargain on behalf of all Swedish workers with the em-

ployers federation, the SAF. For decades, as the economy flourished, both sides were able to agree on fair wage raises and everyone was happy. But, with the dawning of less prosperous times in the 1970s and 1980s, things began to change. The LO lost its grip and other unions began to emerge. The trend for centralised bargaining was replaced by bargaining at a more local level.

With more jobs than people, the result was an explosion of wage demands. Workers could ask what they liked and often got it. In the first few months of this year, Sweden was hit by a wave of strikes. "These days, everyone feels they have been mistreated. It's everyone's war against everyone," said Soderstrom.

"People are starting to compare each other in a way they never did before," said Anders Mellbourn, a political scientist and journalist at Stockholm's daily newspaper "Dagens Nyheter."

So what happened to the old Swedish ideals of equality and socialism? "We thought we were altruists, and we were as long as things went well," said Mellbourn. "It's very easy to be generous when you feel you are getting something yourself. When that's no longer the case, it becomes more difficult."

In a sense, the Swedish model has become a victim of its own success. The original aims of taxing the rich to pay for the poor have become obscured as prosperity has come to almost all. "Once the middle-class income bracket found itself being hit by high taxes the system wasn't as popular as it was when it only affected the very rich," said Mellbourn. "Life wasn't so sunny anymore."

Sture Nordh, at 38 one of Sweden's youngest and best-known trade union leaders, is among those who believe the old model is teetering. "It's really sad. The only thing that counts in

Swedish society any more is what can be valued in kroner," he said. "I still believe that. Swedish people have a social conscience. But I have to say it's not as strong as it used to be."

As head of the SKTF — the Union of Local Government Officers — Sweden's second biggest white-collar union, Nordh is in daily contact with members who work in the health and social services and the picture, he says, is a sorry one. Sweden's services are not what they were, partly because of financial problems, and partly because the system has grown too big and unwieldy to be efficient.

There are waiting lists of up to two years for medical operations such as cataracts and hip replacements. Staff shortages mean that home visits to help wash, feed and clean for the elderly are curtailed. There are not enough nursery school places to go around — a serious problem in a country where 86 per cent of all women with under-school age children go out to work.

High wage increases in the private sector have led to a flight from the public sector. Said Mellbourn: "Attracting teachers or social workers is extremely difficult when people know they could go and work in a boutique in Stockholm and earn more money without having to go through any training."

Financing the social welfare system has been done at the expense of investment in the country's infrastructure. Sweden's road and railway network is in urgent need of modernisation, a factor which could pose serious problems in the 1990s, experts warn.

The social services budget currently has a hole of about SK20 billion (\$3.2 billion), says Nordh. "The quality of services in some of the big cities is already dreadful. If nothing is done, there are going to be really big problems and we are going to have to start reducing services," Nordh is one

of many who believe the Swedish people have yet to wake up to the seriousness of the situation. Lulled by decades of being coddled by the state, they cannot believe the cocoon is in danger of falling apart.

"The idea that citizenship entitles you to a basic social and medical security is still very strong in this country," he said. "The trouble is, no politician has had the guts to tell the people that it boils down to a choice between paying higher taxes or having fewer services."

Nordh claims that if presented with the dilemma, most Swedes would opt to pay more. Sociologist Sven Olsson agrees: "We live with an odd contradiction in this country. There is such a strong philosophy that, for example, you should take care of the elderly, that most people would get very upset if that were no longer the case," he said.

"On the other hand, the average person wants more money in his pocket. If it comes down to a choice, I think many people will opt to pay higher taxes."

Others believe the Swedes have already reached saturation point when it comes to taxes, and they predict that privatisation will be the way forward.

To the Social Democrat Party, such a prospect is anathema, particularly among the old guard who have issued warnings about giving birth to a two-tier system. There are signs, however, that privatisation is already happening in some sectors: Two years ago, a home for the elderly in a Stockholm suburb became the first such establishment to be contracted out to a private company. Again in Stockholm, city council officials faced with staff shortages have been forced to hand over projects for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and drug addicts to the private sector. "Some people would like to throw the Swedish model out. I personally think it should be modified," said Mellbourn.

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By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

Philippines increases oil stock against Gulf crisis

MANILA (R) — The Philippines will import four million more barrels of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia and Indonesia this year to cushion the impact of the Gulf crisis, President Corason Aquino said Sunday.

The added oil stocks were also seen as bids to ward off another coup attempt by army rebels, who staged the sixth and bloodiest putsch last December after Aquino raised local petrol prices a month earlier.

Speaking on her weekly Sunday radio programme, Aquino urged Filipinos to understand the need for impending petrol price increases in the country due to rising world crude prices.

She said her government would try to keep oil prices in the Philippines the lowest in Asia.

"Our country must face the fact that we cannot maintain the current prices of oil," she said.

Aquino said she had instructed energy officials to seek further oil supplies from non-Middle East countries, including China. Manila is also negotiating with Mexico and Brunei.

Under the recent agreements, Iran will supply this year 2.4 million barrels of crude oil, Saudi Arabia 900,000 barrels, Malaysia 500,000 and Indonesia 300,000, the Philippine National Oil Company said.

"The Philippines is assured of

sufficient supply of crude oil to last up to the end of the year," the oil firm said in a report to Aquino, copies of which were given to reporters.

Aquino said Iran also "responded favourably" to a further request by Manila for an additional 20,000 barrels a day, which would raise Iran's commitment to 4.8 million barrels. Tehran radio said Iran had agreed in principle to the request.

Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus arrived in Tehran Saturday and met Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh to seek alternative sources after U.N. sanctions against Baghdad dried up exports from Kuwait and Iraq.

Kuwaitis 'have plenty of cash'

LONDON (AP) — Kuwait's toppled government has "plenty of cash," the finance minister said Saturday, and it is shopping for bargains in stock markets depressed by Middle East turmoil.

He also said at a news conference that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are discussing a possible crude oil for petroleum products exchange to help Kuwait's international refineries while his country is occupied by Iraq.

"I can rule out selling any big stakes" in companies in which Kuwait government funds are invested, Sheikh Ali said. Indeed, he said the Kuwait Investment Office believes it is "the right time, in a lot of places, to pick shares."

Friday, the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) purchased shares in the German market, and it will probably buy shares in the United Kingdom, Sheikh Ali said.

The Kuwait government and the KIO "don't feel in any way harmed" in their financial operations by the asset freeze placed on Kuwait holdings by world governments following the Aug. 2 takeover by Iraq, Sheikh Ali said.

Despite steps taken by several governments to freeze Kuwaiti assets to protect them from seizure by Iraq, the government has been allowed "the full right to manage" its assets, and would have no problem even in shifting assets across borders, he said.

Sheikh Ali declined to describe the size of Kuwait's cash holdings or to place any value on the funds invested in Britain or elsewhere.

He likewise offered no details of the proposed swap with Saudi Arabia. "We are discussing the possibility of exchanges," he said, and praised the Saudi government for being "extremely forthcoming" in assisting Kuwait's government.

Asked about the amount of gold and cash seized by the Iraqis in Kuwait, Sheikh Ali said the amount may be "a little more, a little less" than \$800 million.

Gulf conflict causes economic hardship in West Bank, Gaza

NUSSEIRAT CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Abu Raed Kharwan, who built a career as an accountant in Kuwait, now finds himself stranded in this squalid Palestinian refugee camp where he was born 39 years ago.

"I used to send money home," Kharwan said as he sat on his father's porch in the white cotton gown typical of Gulf dress. "Now I am a burden."

Kharwan is among thousands of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories who face economic hardship as a result of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Jobs and years of savings are in jeopardy, as are Kuwaiti government contributions that maintained Palestinian hospitals and refugee aid programmes.

Ironically, most Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip support Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom they see as an increasingly powerful leader capable of restoring Arab pride and supporting their cause for independence.

But Gulf workers like Kharwan carefully temper their backing.

"We Palestinians are not with Saddam against Kuwait," he said. "We are with Saddam against the United States."

Kharwan, who was on vacation here when Kuwait was invaded, does not know when, if ever, he will be able to return to his job.

He also worries he may never see the 20,000 Kuwaiti dinars (\$70,000) in savings and pension accumulated in 14 years of work in the Gulf.

And Kharwan awaits word of the fate of two brothers still in Kuwait while living with his wife and five children in his father's stone-block Nusseirat Camp house, which already had 18 residents before Kharwan and his family moved in.

The Israeli government estimates that more than 30,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories were employed in Kuwait at the time of Iraq's invasion. Kuwaiti businesses, banks and offices have not reopened.

The takeover abruptly stopped the flow of \$140 million a year that came to the territories from the Palestinian workers and Kuwaiti government aid programmes, Israeli officials said.

Palestinian economists say workers in other Gulf countries — whose jobs could be threatened if the turmoil spreads — contribute an additional \$160 million to the territories.

The financial fallout goes far beyond family pocketbooks:

— Jerusalem's Mukassad Hospital, the largest Palestinian-run health facility here, has appealed to Western countries for aid to make up for the \$1 million a

month Kuwait supplied for its operation.

— Palestinian merchants fear their trade with Arab countries will be disrupted. Some 40 trucks of produce and products move daily from the territories to markets in neighbouring Jordan and on to Kuwait and Iraq, which is the subject of an international embargo.

— There may be a shortfall in the \$35 million that Gulf nations pledged to U.N. emergency programme which provides food and health care for the 1.7 million Palestinians in the territories.

Local Palestinian activists, who insist on anonymity, say that funds clandestinely supplied to the territories by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have dried up since the Iraqi takeover. The PLO, closely allied with Saddam, relies on contributions from Palestinian workers and oil-rich Gulf states.

Saeb Erakat, a West Bank professor and pro-PLO activist, warned that the economic impact could be even greater if other Gulf countries, notably Saudi Arabia, penalise Palestinian workers because of PLO support for Saddam.

"There are thousands of innocent civilians working in the Gulf, and it would be unfair to threaten their salaries or their jobs," Erakat said.

He estimated the workforce throughout the Gulf includes 840,000 Palestinians from the territories or from families displaced to other Arab lands.

About 400,000 of Kuwait's population of 1.9 million before the takeover were Palestinian.

Erakat added that about 200,000 of the Palestinians currently in Kuwait do not have passports or travel documents that allow them to return either to the territories or other Arab countries.

"They have no place to go and are left between the guns of the Americans and Egyptians and the guns of Iraq," Erakat concluded.

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian economic development expert, said families throughout the Arab World are being hurt by the sharp decline in values of Arab currencies.

Many Palestinians in the territories are paid in Jordanian dinars, which have fallen 15 per cent against the dollar since the Iraqi takeover, he said. Gulf workers have savings in Kuwaiti dinars, down 75 per cent in value, and United Arab Emirates riyals, which also have been sliding.

"This means a dramatic decrease in the value of savings for Palestinians," Khatib said. In some countries, accounts are frozen because of the crisis, he added.

Data shows Brazil entering worst recession in 10 years

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — President Fernando Collor de Mello's draconian anti-inflation plan implemented in March has triggered Brazil's worst recession in ten years, according to data from the government statistics institute.

In the three months since Collor froze a third of the nation's wealth, ended indexation of wages to prices and slashed government spending, Brazil's gross domestic product (GDP) fell 8.8 per cent compared to the same period a year ago, the IBGE institute said in data released late Saturday.

Industry was hit hardest by the plan. The freeze on liquidity meant a sharp fall in orders which sent production crashing 16.87 per cent between April and June compared with the same period in 1989. Agricultural output slumped by 5.01 per cent.

"The outlook for the whole year cannot be optimistic," the IBGE cautioned. It said GDP had accumulated a fall of 3.3 per cent in the first half of this year but did not issue a forecast for the whole year.

Officially, the government is still insisting that Brazil is heading for zero growth this year but some government officials privately admitted — even before the Gulf crisis — that a recession is more likely.

More seriously for Collor, who has staked his whole government's success on the fight against inflation, are indications that price rises are again accelerating.

Collor inherited monthly inflation of around 80 per cent on taking office but succeeded in squeezing it down to seven per

cent per month in May.

Since then however, it has crept back up and Saturday's respected Sao Paulo research institute FIPE shook the government by announcing that prices had gone up no less than four per cent in the second week of August.

Brazil, which imports some 40 per cent of its oil needs, has also been hard hit by the fallout from the Gulf crisis.

Quite apart from the inflationary pressure of higher oil prices, it now has to seek alternative crude supplies to replace the 160,000 barrels per day crude it used to buy from Iraq, its biggest single supplier before the U.N. embargo.

Brazilian exporters have also suffered because Iraq was an important market for Brazilian goods.

Stock trader loses \$100m

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP) — A financial adviser afraid to face his clients admitted in a videotape message that he lost about \$100 million of investors' money by making risky trades in stock options.

More than 1,000 investors may be affected, according to lawyers. Included are several large retirement funds.

"Words aren't adequate to express my regret and sorrow," said Jim Donahue, head of the Hedged Securities Associates Limited Partnership, based in Colorado. "I feel terrible remorse for the things I've done to you."

H. Alan Dill, attorney for the partnership, said the organisation has about \$5.25 million in assets remaining and will seek bankruptcy protection to sort out investor claims.

Donahue sent a videotape to the investor meeting instead of appearing in person because he feared for his safety, his aides said.

Donahue, 62, was known as an aggressive trader in stock options, contracts to buy or sell a stock for a specified price in the future.

Politics and oil logic threaten to split OPEC

VIENNA (R) — OPEC oil ministers started informal talks in Vienna Sunday divided on whether to approve a rise in output above quotas to plug supply gaps caused by the Gulf crisis.

Delegates said consensus was growing that extra supply will be needed if the crisis drags on and oil from Iraq and Kuwait remains shut in beyond October by world sanctions.

That is when the advent of the northern winter will begin to fire up fuel demand to nearly 25 million barrels a day compared to current OPEC output of around 19 million barrels.

But the delegates said Iraq could hardly be expected to endorse any action by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that would award others its market share.

Some officials voiced fears the issue could blow apart OPEC, the group founded 30 years ago on Sept. 10 in Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia, apparently on the brink of war with Iraq, and Venezuela were leading the bid for a formal OPEC move to suspend output quotas.

They were trying to persuade a majority to turn the informal consultations among some ministers into a decision-making conference. A quorum needs 10 of the 13 members.

At least 10, including the toppled Kuwaiti government were expected in Vienna by the end of Sunday and Qatar's delegate, Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani, said he expected a formal conference would be convened within 48 hours.

Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi had by midday not appeared at the talks, but OPEC statutes would permit him to object later to any resolution if he stays away.

Still, the Saudis and Venezuelans would be happy with a majority rather than a unanimous resolution.

Delegates said, however, that some OPEC members felt the group was under U.S. political pressure and resented that.

At the same time, they felt there was a risk OPEC would break up.

Libya was likely to back Iraq, the delegates said.

Algeria, which abstained on a recent Cairo Arab League resolution against Iraq, holds the presidency of OPEC. Its minister, Sadek Boussena told Reuters Saturday, "I am a man of the law. I will abide by the statute."

Speaking for Algeria, he said he thought OPEC would have to act at some stage to make up lost supply if real shortages are threatened — provided the West helped by drawing on its stocks.

"We know that a shortage of oil, if that really occurs, will not help the global economy of which Algeria is a part," he said.

The Algerians and most others in OPEC recognise that a new oil "shock" would cause a world recession, depressing energy demand, and stamped the West into energy-saving policies.

The Saudis, however, face the task in OPEC of persuading the majority that the time to act is now.

They agree that there is no shortage yet and that prices have risen above \$30 because of fears of war in the Gulf, not because of tight supply.

China expands oil plans

BEIJING (AP) — China plans to recruit foreign help in developing its offshore oil resources over the next decade, and official report said Sunday.

The China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) plans to improve conditions for foreign investors whose technical and financial help is needed to exploit offshore oil fields, the China Daily reported.

China has reached a plateau in its oil production because many onshore fields are exhausted and most offshore projects remain commercially unfeasible, CNOOC spokesman Wu Xinduo was quoted as saying.

Faced with severe energy shortages due to growing industrial and residential demand, the state-owned oil firm plans to step up construction of seven oil and gas fields in the South China Sea and in the northeastern Bohai Gulf, the report said.

Airlines consider war risk surcharge for Gulf routes

DUBAI (R) — Major international airlines fearing a war in the Gulf are planning fare increases for the region to absorb war-risk charges, airline and travel industry sources said Sunday.

Several have cut back on the number of Gulf flights and others are rearranging routes to avoid flying over the area.

"One thing is for sure. We are not going to absorb it (the extra cost) ourselves," said the Gulf manager for a large European airline.

"There is a lot of discussion on raising rates. Something is going to happen soon," said a spokesman for Greece's Olympic Airways in Dubai.

Some flights have been cancelled by airlines under pressure from aircrew unions and others may follow as military tension builds between Iraq and a U.S.-led multinational force massing in and around Saudi Arabia.

KLM, the Dutch national carrier, reduced flights through the Gulf from 20 to two.

"This is because of the Gulf crisis," a KLM spokesman in Dubai said. "It is in line with our government's policy of advising people to stay away."

The airline, which used to keep flight crews overnight in Dubai, has now shifted them to Athens.

Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airlines have also announced plans to cut services to the Gulf. The West German airline Lufthansa has moved crews out of Dubai to Cairo and Karachi.

British Airways and Turkish Airlines are among operators now arranging new, circuitous routes to avoid flying over the

Gulf.

Airline sources said major carriers flying through the Gulf met Aug. 22 and agreed to recoup rising insurance costs by adding a war-risk surcharge — something they did not do during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

But they said details of how much to add and how to implement the price hike were still under negotiation.

Some Gulf newspapers forecast a surcharge of between 20 and 30 per cent of current air fares, although airline officials said between seven and 15 per cent were more likely.

"We don't want to scare people off," said one well-placed source at one airline. "But it is really expensive and the airlines are suffering. As long as you fly into the Gulf, you are hit with insurance premiums."

The war-risk surcharge could have wide impact. Many major European and Asian carriers use Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Bahrain and Oman as refuelling stops for their heavily-trafficked Europe-Far East routes. The region is also a key transfer point for many Middle East flights.

The Gulf crisis has already hit the airline industry. Aviation fuel costs have risen by up to 35 per cent since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

In response to this and rising premiums, at least one airline, Lufthansa, has already raised bulk cargo rates by about 15 U.S. cents per kilogramme.

War risk and fuel costs will be on the agenda when the International Air Transport Association (IATA) meets in Geneva between Aug. 29 and 31.

Local airline officials said this meeting may produce a coordinated approach to raising air fares.

Despite the war fears, Gulf airlines said a surge of outbound reservations immediately after the takeover of Kuwait had slowed and traffic was returning to normal.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

AGE RANGE:	Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:	English
PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED:	None
OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED:	Arabic and French
NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED:	All
TEACHING STAFF:	All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.
ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE:	Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.
OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS:	Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc. The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.
SPORTS:	Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc.
TRANSPORT:	Buses are available to cover principal residential areas
ENQUIRIES:	The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September. P.O. Box 2002 Tel: 841070

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, August 26, 1990	Central Bank official rates
U.S. dollar	655.0 659.0
Pound Sterling	1280.0 1272.4
Deutsche mark	423.1 420.6
Swiss franc	519.2 516.1
French franc	126.2 125.4

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Nablia Obeld — Salah Gabeel
In
THE DANCER AND THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dured Lahham
Madeline Taber
In
KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45
OXFORD BLUES
5:15 only

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:45, 6:15, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

POLICE ACADEMY 6

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

BYE BYE BABY

Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Sri Lankan forces take 2nd island from rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The government said Sunday its troops overran a second rebel-held island and killed more than 80 Tamil guerrillas in its advance along the heavily mined causeway leading to Jaffna.

Vowing to crush the Tamil Tiger guerrillas once and for all, the government has staked its prestige on breaking the rebel siege of Jaffna Fort.

According to military officials in Colombo, government troops are now about 4 kilometres from the 17th century fort where about 250 policemen and soldiers have been trapped for 10 weeks.

There was no confirmation of the government claim that its forces captured Mandaitivu Island after a fierce three-hour battle Saturday night.

Communications to the Jaffna peninsula, 300 kilometres north-east of Colombo were cut after June 11 when the Tigers broke a 13-month-old ceasefire with the government. The combatants use radios and communicate with colleagues outside the peninsula.

The last word from the Tigers

was Friday when a guerrilla spokesman in Geneva acknowledged government forces were trying to advance from Kayts Island to Mandaitivu Island. Government troops landed on Kayts Island Wednesday, dislodging Tamil fighters.

The islands are connected by a causeway that continues across the Jaffna lagoon and ends just beside Jaffna Fort.

Military officials in Colombo, who under briefing rules cannot be identified, claimed 84 Tigers and only two government soldiers were killed in the battle for Mandaitivu Island.

They said advancing troops found the bodies of 28 rebels on Mandaitivu and killed 16 others who tried to swim to safety. Another 40 Tigers were killed in strafing from a helicopter gunship as they tried to reach the mainland, the officials said.

The government says it now expects to reach Jaffna Fort by Monday.

The star-shaped fort, a legacy of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial rule, is the Sinhalese-controlled government's only

outpost in Tamil-populated Jaffna town.

But the causeway is heavily mined, the military officials said. In the seven years since militants from the Tamil minority revolted against Sinhalese rule, the Tigers have proved devastatingly effective at making and planting mines.

Since launching their latest offensive against the Tigers last Wednesday, the government says it has stepped up aerial attacks on rebel positions around Jaffna Fort.

The Tigers have not acknowledged any losses but have accused the government of killing more than 300 Tamil civilians in bombing and strafing raids and ground fire on the Jaffna peninsula, where 850,000 people live.

The government says 5,000 people have been killed since June 11 when the Tigers broke the ceasefire in northern and eastern Sri Lanka where most Tamils live. That brings to at least 14,000 the number of victims of the 7-year-old Tamil insurrection. Fighting in the east has tapered



off, with the Tigers retreating into the swamps and jungles while the government deploys in the town.

Tamils make up 18 per cent of the Indian Ocean island's 16 million people. They have long complained that the Sinhalese majority discriminates against them in the jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language. Militants sought to create a separate homeland for Tamils in the northeast. Sinhalese, who account for 75 per cent of the population, have dominated politics and the military since Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1949.

Burmese army and opposition reportedly on collision course

BANGKOK (R) — Three months after a dramatic election win, Burma's opposition is preparing to openly defy the military government which has denied it the spoils of victory.

Diplomats said at the weekend that September would be a crucial month, marking both the anniversary of a bloody but abortive uprising in 1988 and the opposition's deadline for the army to allow it to convene a parliament and form a government.

"I am very worried that something really nasty could be building up over the next four or five weeks," said one senior Rangoon-based diplomat.

Since winning more than 80 per cent of the seats in the elections on May 27, the opposition has been hamstrung by fresh military conditions for a transfer of power, and the arrest of up to 500 of its supporters in the capital alone, diplomats said.

They said they had received new reports of beating and harassment in jails since at least three protesters were shot dead by soldiers in Mandalay on Aug. 8.

The National League for Democracy, without its leader since Aung San Sun Kyi was put under house arrest 13 months ago, has rejected army efforts to negotiate its election mandate and has insisted successful candidates be allowed to convene.

"The army has done everything to cloud what is a very clear situation. The league has overwhelming support and short of carving it in stone everyone believes that in May they elected a government, not a drafting committee," one diplomat said.

Others said the league, a fragile coalition of politically inexperienced dissidents, had in the past few weeks forged a tougher stance on the transfer of power and seemed ready to defy the army to achieve it.

In late July the league issued its so-called Gandhi Declaration dismissing army claims that the election was for a constitution-drafting body only.

Since then, diplomats said, it has cemented an alliance with the second largest parliamentary grouping, the United Nationalities League for Democracy, a mix of 19 ethnic-based parties. This

gives the coalition all but about 50 of the 485 assembly seats.

"This gives them great leverage if the army keeps trying to use the issue of minorities as a stalling point. The league is beginning to look like a politically sophisticated organisation capable of matching the army's every move," said one diplomat.

The army has called for a meeting of party representatives after election expenses and complaints have been filed. Diplomats said the league had agreed to the meeting, which they estimated would probably be held in mid-September.

Few diplomats believe the army will discuss more than its own timetable for gradual political change which they said envisaged a constitutional process taking up to two years and possibly involving another election.

"Here is an army confronted by an election result it didn't expect and can't accept. I can't see it doing much else than trying to sweep the result aside and work towards another election with a more palatable outcome," said one.

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Shuttle mission to explore hot objects in universe

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — After struggling for weeks to fix fuel leaks, the U.S. space agency intends to try again this week to send Columbia up to study some of the hottest objects in the universe.

The shuttle sporting new hydrogen lines, is scheduled to lift off this coming Saturday with seven astronauts and the \$150-million Astro Observatory. The countdown is due to begin Wednesday.

As Columbia orbits above Earth, Astro will probe high-energy ultraviolet light and X-rays emitted from stars, galaxies, quasars, even a comet and supernova. Such radiation is invisible from the ground.

The mission, scheduled to last nine to 10 days, will be the first in five years devoted entirely to scientific research.

It also will be the first shuttle flight since Discovery carried the flawed Hubble space telescope into orbit in April. That's the longest gap between missions since flights resumed following the 1986 Challenger disaster.

"We're certainly aware we will be getting a lot more public attention. Will that affect what we're doing?" Not at all, said Jeffrey Hoffman, one of four Astro-1 mission board members. "We were always going at it 105 per cent."

Columbia originally was scheduled to lift off with Astro in March 1986. One of the targets was to have been Halley's Comet. That mission and all others were put on hold after Challenger exploded in February 1986.

This year, after a revamping of Astro's observation plans, launch was set for May 30, but hydrogen escaped from Columbia during fueling and the flight was called off.

Atlantis took Columbia's place at the pad but also was found to have a hydrogen leak, and its classified military mission was delayed from July to November.

Atlantis was rolled back to the hangar two and a half weeks ago, and a newly repaired Columbia reclaimed the pad.

"Yeah, it's frustrating," Hoffman said, noting all the delays. "One of the things that you absolutely need in this business is

patience and also the ability not to take all of these things personally."

More recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineers have been struggling with the periodic loss of radio contact with the Venus-orbiting Magellan spacecraft.

Magellan was launched from the shuttle Atlantis on May 4, 1989. It started orbiting Venus on Aug. 10 on a \$744 million radar-mapping mission to make the best pictures and maps yet of the cloud-covered planet.

The spacecraft has returned its first pictures of Venus last week. The latest pictures released Friday included a spectacular three-dimensional image, show a 32-kilometre-wide meteorite impact crater with a floor covered by lava flows.

Science and Mission Planning Manager Tommy Thompson said engineers and scientists felt "a little strung out" after the spacecraft malfunctioned and lost contact with Earth twice: first for 14 hours starting Aug. 16, then for 17 hair-raising hours beginning last Tuesday.

Consequently, NASA expresses eagerness for the shuttle's success.

"Everyone is very anxious for our mission to go very well," said Gene Urban, deputy mission scientist for Astro. "We're really a little nervous, I'd say, about having everything work right."

Scientists' main concern with Astro is the instrument pointing system for the three ultraviolet telescopes. The pointing system has been used only once before, for solar observations in 1985, and numerous problems were encountered.

Columbia's flight will be the first of five missions dedicated to astrophysics. Among the questions astronomers hope Astro will answer on its first orbit are how much helium existed shortly after the universe was created, and what powers quasars, the most distant objects in the universe.

The crew also hopes to contact the two cosmonauts aboard space station Mir by Ham radio, marking the first time direct radio communications is made between a U.S. and Soviet spacecraft.

Floods kill 50 in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Floods in the western state of Gujarat and on an island off the east coast killed at least 50 people this week, officials and news reports said.

Heavy rains in Gujarat caused five rivers to burst their banks and maroon scores of villages, United News of India reported. At least 48 people drowned in the flooding, the news agency said.

Army helicopters were being used to bring materials to the stranded villagers, it said. Road and rail traffic has been disrupted.

In the Eastern city of Bhubaneswar, officials said at least two people were drowned on an island off the coast after heavy rains caused floods.

At least 140 people have died in India this year in floods caused by the annual summer monsoons.

Death toll climbs to 515 in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police found a man stabbed to death in the black township of Katlehong Sunday, bringing the official toll in South African fighting to 515 since a brutal tribal war began two weeks ago.

Another black man was killed late Saturday and two women were wounded when a hand grenade was thrown at a railway station waiting-room in Roodepoort, west of Johannesburg.

Police said a South African military grenade was used but declined to say whether they suspected an attack by ultra-rightists white who oppose President F.W. de Klerk's apartheid reforms.

Police and soldiers, acting under emergency powers invoked Friday, went from house to house in the Kwathema and Vosloorus townships during the night, searching out hand-made "zipguns," knives and a variety of other weapons, a police spokesman said.

Two men were arrested after neighbours told police they had a store of petrol bombs in their house.

Police and soldiers were stoned in Kagiso, one of the townships worst-hit by the war, in fighting occurring mainly around hostels for male migrant workers from the Zulu and Xhosa tribal lands. The spokesman said no one was hurt.

Battles have raged in 27 black townships since Aug. 13, fought mainly between migrant workers loyal to Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and local residents who support Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

An ANC spokeswoman said senior official Walter Sisulu would join traditional tribal leaders in a tour of the worst-hit townships to call for a truce.

On Friday, the government declared the townships around Johannesburg "unrest areas," giving police widespread powers to suppress violence. It also called in more soldiers and police to control the chaos.

Impending end of E. Germany creates mixed feelings

LEIPZIG, East Germany (AP) — East Germany is about to disappear in the swallow of its rich Western neighbour, and the universal enthusiasm of a few months ago has waned.

Polls say the vast majority of East Germans favour unification, but appearances don't always reinforce them.

The "we are one people" banners that hung from trees, factories and homes during the pro-unity frenzy of early 1990 are gone.

There are no cheering crowds and no convoys of motorists blasting their horns in anticipation of the unification on Oct. 3.

Reality has set in. The issue foremost in the minds of East Germans is how to tackle the huge challenges facing them as their crumbling economy is absorbed by West Germany.

Some show a decided lack of eagerness for union, especially in Leipzig, birthplace of the uprising that ended 40 years of Stalinist less than a year ago.

"Maybe the GDR (East Germany) could have survived as a newly democratised country," said Maria Chudoba, who tends bar at the Cappuccino Cafe in

Leipzig. "But now it's too late to turn back."

Heinz Weisse, 74, and his 70-year-old wife, Gertrud, loading bales of hay onto a cart outside Weimar, said they wouldn't have minded seeing East Germany continue as a democracy.

"We're happy about unity, but it was not a necessary development," said Weisse, a retired hairdresser. "There's a good side and bad side to everything."

He said he and his wife had a relatively good life under communism and, as pensioners, had been allowed to travel outside the country.

"We had our little house here, and we were born here, so we always came back," Weisse said.

Most East Germans seem to see unification as their only salvation, but have come to realise it will not be an overnight cure for such problems as the high unemployment brought on by the July 1 economic union.

"We had our celebrations last year when the Berlin Wall came down," said Gisela Oswald, a 63-year-old retired opera singer in Weimar, an East German Cultural centre.

Yugoslav mine blast kills 8, traps 170

BELGRADE (R) — At least 170 miners were trapped underground in central Yugoslavia after a gas explosion killed eight of their workmates Sunday and threatened to entomb the others, Tanjug News Agency said.

Tanjug said it feared a catastrophe as rescue teams raced to reach the trapped men in case of a shaft cave-in, which could completely cut them off.

Officials at the mine near Tuzla said the methane explosion sent chunks of the pit's concrete entrance flying into the air and steel supports in the mine's main shafts had been all but destroyed.

"The main danger at the moment is the possibility of a cave-in which would completely cut off the rescue teams from the trapped miners," a mine official said.

"It is feared that the proportion of the accident are large, perhaps catastrophic," Tanjug said.

Tanjug said that rescue teams had found eight bodies and were desperately trying to reach the others trapped by the blast at Kreka Colliery in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mine officials, contacted by telephone from Belgrade, confirmed that at least three bodies had been found but that more miners were feared dead.

They said the blast damaged ventilation and transport shafts so that rescue teams had to follow a difficult and long route to reach the trapped miners.

"But we are going on with the search and working as quickly and efficiently as we can," one official said.

Tanjug said rescue teams from nearby mines had been put on alert and were ready to join the rescue operation. It said veteran rescue workers at the Zenica Coal Mine were preparing to go to Tuzla.

The Kreka explosion was potentially the worst mine disaster in Yugoslavia since 91 coal miners were killed in a fire in the Aleksinac mine in Serbia last November.

Kreka mine officials said that at least two miners who were close to the surface survived the blast and were in hospital with slight injuries.

WARSAW (AP) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki led a tribute to Solidarity's 10th anniversary and spoke nostalgically of the days when the movement united workers and intellectuals.

"Then, 10 years ago, the alliance between workers and intellectuals was so strong... These values cannot be wasted," said Mazowiecki, marking the first day of his second year as the East Bloc's first non-Communist prime minister.

But the Solidarity movement that led the democratic upheaval in Eastern Europe starts its second decade divided. Increasingly, the split is between the workers backing the trade union and leader Lech Walesa in Gdansk and the intellectuals surrounding Mazowiecki and the government in Warsaw.

The leaders of the two camps have observed Solidarity's 10th anniversary separately. The events began on Aug. 15 in Gdansk, where Walesa led a

21 die, 33 missing as Taiwan yacht sinks

NANTOU, Taiwan (AP) — A yacht carrying oil company employees on a moon-gazing excursion overturned on a lake in central Taiwan, killing 21 people, police said Sunday. At least 33 were missing and feared dead.

In London, a spokesman for Shell Oil Co., whose subsidiary Shell Taiwan Ltd. chartered the yacht, said about 80 employees were aboard. A list provided by the travel agent for the excursion showed 91 joined the trip, police said.

The accident occurred at 9:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) Saturday, the eve of the Chinese Valentine Day festival when moon-gazing is a traditional part of the celebrations.

About 200 rescuers, including divers, searched the picturesque Sun Moon Lake here in one of Taiwan's most popular tourist districts for survivors through Saturday night and Sunday, police said.

Police in Nantou, 230 kilometres southwest of Taipei said they arrested yacht owner Hsu Ching-Hsin for alleged unintentional manslaughter.

They said the boat lacked a commercial license to run on the lake and was crowded beyond its 60-person capacity. The boat also allegedly violated a ban on yachting after 6 p.m.

The vessel was chartered for a weekend cruise for Shell Taiwan employees on the lake, a popular resort in Nantou, according to Briton Jonathan D. Crossman, general manager of Shell Taiwan.

Crossman, who was on the vessel's upper deck, said there were 82 employees and their families, including 30 children, on board.

Alan Jacobs, spokesman for Shell Oil Co., in London said: "The best information I have is that there were about 80 of our Shell employees and their relatives on a pleasure craft."

Crossman said the boat suddenly capsized as it was turning left about 50 metres from shore and he was tossed overboard.

Newspapers quoted survivors as saying strong winds overturned the boat.

Crossman and his 7-year-old daughter, Nicola, were rescued by boats that rushed to the scene, but his wife, Julia, 40, and a son, Robert, 6, were missing, Shell official Tseng Tien-Shin said.

Police said 31 people swam ashore and several were taken to a hospital, where they were reported in stable condition.

The identities of all the foreigners aboard were not immediately available, but officials said they included nine Britons, Australian John Kasmussen and 10 Malaysians.

Tseng said Sall Aylwin, 46, wife of Shell executive Charles Aylwin was killed and another Shell executive from Britain, Bruce Robson, 48, was missing. Aylwin and his two children were rescued.

Tseng said two children of a Malaysian employee were killed and two other Malaysians were missing. Six other Malaysians were rescued. None of the Malaysians were identified.

Crossman, who was transferred to Taiwan last November, and Aylwin are believed to be from London, but Robson's hometown was not immediately known, Tseng said.

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Also Sunday, about 3,000 policemen staged a rally to denounce coup-minded rebel soldiers believed responsible for a spate of bombings in Manila.

Vice Chief of Staff Rodolfo Biazon said heightened fears for the safety of Mrs. Aquino were based on reports by government spies that rebels were planning to kill her.

"I must give you a most severe

warning," Mrs. Aquino said. "Do not test me."

She made the remarks in a taped radio and television broadcast to be aired Sunday night, the transcript of which was distributed earlier to reporters.

"You had failed to cow the leaders of this country during your last rampage. You shall fail again. I will not hesitate to use all the powers in my hands as the president of the republic to crush these traitors," Mrs. Aquino said.

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COLUMN

Women saved after 8 hours in water

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — U.S. Coast Guard crewmen had just stopped searching for a woman swept off a sailboat when they heard her shouting and saved her, authorities said. Cathy Milway of Santa Cruz was rescued by crew of the Coast Guard vessel Point Carver, said petty officer Jeff Gunn. She had been clinging to a flotation ring for more than eight hours, he said. Milway was treated at Goleta Valley Hospital for dehydration, mild exposure and hypothermia and was released Sunday morning, a spokesman said. The woman and her fiancé, John Patton of Santa Barbara, were sailing in the Pacific before dusk Friday when high winds and rough seas buffeted their boat, shredding its sails. A wave knocked Milway off the deck and Patton radioed the coast guard, which sent out a cutter and helicopter. Gunn said. Patton was lifted off the boat by helicopter but searchers could not find Milway. The search had just been cancelled because of darkness and rough seas when crewmen heard her calling for help, said Gunn.

First Soviet arrested for insulting Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — An unemployed man who displayed a portrait of President Mikhail Gorbachev that was marred by drawings and words has become the first person arrested on charges of insulting him, a newspaper said Friday. Gennady Smirnov strolled through the streets of Moscow on July 29 carrying the portrait, "Vechnaya" Moskva reported. According to law enforcement officials, the words and drawings were insulting and slanderous. The newspaper said that even Muscovites, hardened by the increasing openness, found the portrait to be insulting to Gorbachev's personality. The 40-year-old man was taken to a militia station, where criminal charges were filed against him, the newspaper said. He could face a fine of up to 3,000 rubles (\$4,800), a two-year prison term for the deprivation of freedom for three years. Three thousand rubles would be about a year's salary to the average worker. The Soviet legislature passed the law on slandering the president in May after a May Day demonstration in which protesters shouted insults at Gorbachev and other leaders in Red Square.

Rats go for the gold at U.S. college

KALAMAZOO, Michigan — Broad jump, tightrope and soccer were among the events in the competition at Kalamazoo College, but the athletes were more interested in food than victory. And fans at the "fourth annual rat olympics" were careful not to give a big hand to "arrogant named Evita," who has been known to bite the hand feeds her. About 25 psychology students trained the 14 participating rats in lieu of writing a term paper. Psychology Professor Lyn Raible came up with the idea for the games in 1987 to calve her summer course for students. But there was another motive. "Most of my students will go on to do research and I wanted them to think of rats as more than laboratory animals on which to experiment," Ms. Raible said. This year, someone built a scale model of the Empire State Building, which the rats were trained to climb to rescue a miniature replica of King Kong. "Some of the students really develop quite a bond with their rats," she said. "I see them hugging and kissing them. Really, sometimes it's almost disgusting."

Cars smuggled under toilet rolls

LAGOS (R) — Seven Mercedes-Benz saloons and three other luxury cars have been found smuggled into Nigeria in containers stuffed with 8,000 rolls of toilet paper, state radio reported. The importers of the cargo had absconded, so the cars, valued at 10 million naira (\$1.27 million), would be added to the federal government car pool, Ahmed Yusufu, state chief of protocol, told journalists. The toilet rolls would be used in government guest houses, he said.

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